■ Entertainment / A26

4 'should-see' films this month, according to Nestor Torre

■ News / A2

Miriam: No apology to 'low-lifes'

■ Lifestyle / C1

Food & fun activities in Hong Kong make double happiness

■ News / A4

Palace to Congress: Pass tax bills first before Charter change

■ BYLINE INQUIRER

Dambuhalang utang: Scandal sa Cebu

NGAYONG ALAS-11 NG GABI, SA ABC

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, February 3, 2005 ★★ 38 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 57 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Attention Senate: 'Bantay' barks to stop cruelty to dogs

By Marlet D. Salazar

HE GUARDS your house without pay. His loyalty is beyond question. He gives love unconditionally, and he is the happiest creature alive every time you are home.

He is man's best friend, yet he is subjected to cruelty and neglect. At the Senate even.

ATTENTION/ A6

Erap's lament: Am I that easy to forget?

By Armand N. Nocum

"YOU have already forgotten me. Am I no longer newsworthy?"

Like a spurned suitor, former President Joseph Estrada sounded hurt

ERAP'S/ A6

FORGET 200
FORGET 100
BUT NOT ONE... THAT'S ME!

Oil firms favor VAT bill

But they warn pump prices, power, LPG rates will go up

By Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana and Abigail L. Ho

THE BIG three oil firms are amenable to the lifting of the exemption of petroleum products from the existing 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) rate, but they warned that this would cause pump prices and power rates to go up.

At the hearing conducted by the Senate committee on ways and means, Edgar Chua, president of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., yesterday said that Shell, Petron and Caltex Philippines Inc. were in favor of VAT instead of the current excise tax on fuel products.

Chua also represents the Philippine Institute of Petroleum, which is composed of Shell, Caltex, Petron, Total, ETT and Liquigas.

On Tuesday, the House committee on ways and means lifted the exemption previously given to the sale and importation of raw materials used in the manufacture of petroleum products.

It also agreed to slap the earnings of independent power producers (IPPs) as well as lawyers and doctors with the proposed 12-percent VAT rate to raise P15.3 billion for the government.

But militant party-list groups said lifting the exemptions of power and petroleum products from VAT was worse than the VAT increase itself.

"If the two percentage-point increase in VAT was the earthquake, the lifting of the VAT exemptions of power and oil is the tsunami," Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said.

Casiño said the effect of the lifting of VAT exemptions would be staggering.

He said that by slapping petroleum products with a 12-percent VAT, the price of LPG, for example, would go up to P420 per

OIL FIRMS/ A8

GMA says masses to reap benefits

WITH the economy surging to its highest in 15 years, President Macapagal-Arroyo sees the country's wealth trickling down to the masses soon.

"The average Filipino will soon reap the fruits of confidence in the economy, which will not only bring in more investments but drive the overall agenda of economic reforms," the President said yesterday during the inauguration of the People's Park in Binmaley, Pangasinan.

"Philippine stability is dawning upon the whole range of national affairs and cutting across the regions and sectors. We must stay the course, seize the opportunity for reform," she said.

The strengthening of the peso against the US dollar, the decision of California Public Employees Retirement System to keep its investment here and the Supreme Court ruling upholding the 1995 Mining Act that allows foreign investors to exploit the country's mineral resources have boosted confidence in the country, according to Ms Arroyo.

"These positive developments do not happen by accident. They are the result of hard-nosed assessment by objective analysts of the great potentials of our country and the excellence and hard work of our people," she said.

The economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.1 percent last year but the President did not elaborate how she intended to spread the benefits

GMA SAYS/ A6

THE FIRST sign that Pope John Paul II was sick came on Sunday when he kept clearing his throat during a 20-minute appearance by the window of his private apartment in the Vatican as he released a pair of doves for peace into St. Peter's Square. Already, John Paul's pontificate is one of the longest and most event-studded in history. He has been pope for the past 26 years.

Pope John Paul II rushed to hospital

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II was rushed to the hospital on Tuesday night after he experienced breathing difficulties and an inflamed throat while battling the flu during an icy spell that has swept Italy.

But the Vatican on Wednesday said medical tests on the 84-year-old Pontiff showed his heart and respiration were normal and that he rested for several hours overnight.

The Pope had "just a little fever," his spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in elaborating on a terse medical bulletin issued by the Holy See.

John Paul was being treated Wednesday for respiratory problems in the Gemelli Polyclinic. He was rushed there late Tuesday from his Vatican apartment, where he had been battling the flu for several days. No further medical bulletins were expected Wednesday, according to Vatican officials.

The papal spokesperson said John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital after doctors decided "he could be better treated there than here (the Vatican)." In response to a reporter's question, Navarro-Valls denied that the Pope lost consciousness, saying: "No, for God's sake!"

Navarro-Valls said that as he was leaving the hospital, the Pope's secretary was cele-

POPE/ A7

MYSTERY MAN

Police arrest ex-NBI agent for kidnapping

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE LONG ARM of the law has caught up with an ex-agent of the National Bureau of Investigation who has been implicated in a string of criminal cases and political controversies.

Martin Soriano, 43, was arrested along with two other men on Monday afternoon in Quezon City in connection with the kidnapping of a 23-year-old woman.

The Philippine National Police is withholding details on the arrest until Soriano, his alleged close-in security Ramiro Ganzon, and Danny Rendon are presented to the media this morning at Camp Crame.

Soriano's dismissal from the NBI in 1999 capped a checkered career in law enforcement.

He made the headlines in 1997 when he linked then Sen. Vicente Sotto III to alleged drug lord Alfredo Tiongco. He claimed that Tiongco had contributed P6 million for the publication of Sotto's book, "Vision for a Drug-free Philippines."

He was also implicated in the disappearance of Nicolas Ruiz, a lawyer of Tiongco and suspected drug lord Florencio Pareña, in July 1997.

Soriano was likewise embroiled, along with the NBI's John Herra, in the theft of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's Mitsubishi Pajero in April 1999.

The vehicle surfaced after the senator demanded that it be produced—or else.

Soriano's latest caper, for which he was finally bagged by law enforcers, involved Caroline Guillen, a resident of Ayala Heights in Quezon City.

His group "arrested" Guillen for possession of illegal drugs, only to hold her captive at Room 3105 of the Citadel Inn on P. Burgos Street, Makati City, on Jan. 28, according to a report issued by the National Capital Region Police Office.

The report, prepared by Supt. Napoleon Taas, NCRPO regional intelligence and investigation director, said Soriano had demand-

POLICE A6

LAW enforcer turned lawbreaker Martin Soriano, former NBI agent who made it to NBI's Most Wanted List.

Gunmen rub out key witness to killing of Pagadian journalist

By Hernan P. dela Cruz and Grace C. Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—As if to underscore the supposed culture of violence that has given rise to the media murders in the Philippines, a key witness to the 2002 killing of journalist Edgar Damalerio was shot dead yesterday.

Police said three unidentified men shot Edgar Amoro in front of the gates of the Zamboanga del Sur National High School in Sta. Maria District here at around 11:30 a.m. A close friend of Damalerio's, Amoro was a teacher at the school and a freelance broadcaster.

Amoro was to turn 46 in April.

The Department of Justice dropped Amoro and another witness, Edgar Ongue, from the witness protection program when the court archived the Damalerio case after the primary suspect, PO1 Guillermo Wapille, escaped from police custody on Feb. 27, 2003.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines yesterday said it took "a strong appeal" from the NUJP and the Center for Community Journalism, and an audience last September with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, to have the two witnesses reinstated in the protection program.

"Amoro could have fled Pagadi-

GUNMEN/ A8

Cop chief apologizes to Bicol media

By Floreño G. Solmirano and Niño Jesus Orbeta
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The police director of Camarines Norte has apologized to broadcast and print journalists in the province.

Supt. Efren Yebra twice apologized to the journalists after the 14th Philippine National Police anniversary awarding ceremonies at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here yesterday morning.

The first apology was made after a brief confrontation with the Camarines Norte journalists, in front of media practitioners from other provinces in Bicol, and witnessed by Fr. Toti Oliva, camp chaplain.

The second was made in a closed-door conference between him and the Camarines Norte journalists at the office of Chief Supt. Restituto P. Mosqueda, Bicol police director.

Yebra had been quoted as saying that he wanted to kill each time he saw a member of the media, and that Camarines Norte journalists were corrupt.

During the confrontation mediated by Mosqueda, Yebra reiterated that his "kill" remark against the journalists had been made in jest, and that he had said only "some" media people were on the take.

He also promised to publicly apologize at the proper forums in Daet, Camarines Norte.

Although initially doubtful of Yebra's sincerity, the journalists

COP CHIEF/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/03/05

Miriam: No apology to 'low-lifes'

EUROPEAN AID
European Union Ambassador Jan de Kok checks on rehabilitation projects financed by the European Union in storm ravaged Infanta in Quezon province. Infanta and two neighboring towns were ravaged by storm-spawned landslides and flash floods in November that left about 1,800 dead and many missing. AFP

By Christine Avendaño

AN UNREPENTANT Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday laughed off the "unintelligent" responses of a number of provincial governors to her privilege speech blaming the local officials for doing nothing to stop illegal logging.

"I was born to do higher things than to engage in verbal abuse with bureaucrats who represent the lowest life form of the bureaucracy," Santiago told reporters.

Several governors took turns assailing the senator for her Monday speech in which she held 43 incumbent and former governors responsible for the prevalence of illegal logging activities in 25 provinces.

She said her speech spoke for itself and that she identified the governors because the Department of Environment and Natural Resources listed their provinces as being notorious for illegal logging.

Santiago said it was understandable if the governors were reacting to her speech based on news reports and probably did not understand the context or substance of her speech "since media as we all know is literature in a hurry."

But if the governors knew the real context and still subjected her to abusive language, Santiago said "this reminds me of a situation where a crocodile muddies the water when it is preying on its victim."

Santiago said she did not expect the governors mentioned in her speech to join "the Miriam Defensor-Santiago fan club."

She said she would ask Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to write to the 43 governors "to explain what she or he has done against illegal logging during his or her term of office."

She said she would also ask the Department of Justice to direct the state prosecutors to file criminal complaints against the illegal loggers she mentioned.

Santiago also said she did not stand to benefit from her expose.

"Publicity? I am one of the most overly publicized people in the Philippines today. I won as President in 1992, remember?" she said.

Malacañang yesterday acknowledged that the war against illegal logging cannot be won without providing alternative sources of income to the families which depend on cutting trees for a living.

"The crackdown on big-time illegal loggers and their cohorts in the government goes hand in hand with our resolve to look for alternative livelihood for local residents affected, in order to win their full cooperation in the anti-illegal logging campaign," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement yesterday.

Bunye said the livelihood alternatives were contained in the reforestation program proposed by retired Gen. Victor Corpus, the government's reforestation czar.

He said that under Corpus' proposal, families in those areas where the reforestation program was to be implemented would care for the planted trees and earn a share once the trees are harvested.

"This is just an added incentive to the families that would be caring for the young trees," Bunye said.

He said the "mechanics" of the program were still being laid down by the reforestation task force.

In Zamboanga del Norte, the provincial council has declared "persona non grata" (an unacceptable person) four Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials accused of "sabotaging" the provincial government's drive to protect its forests.

In a resolution dated Jan. 24, the Zamboanga del Norte Sangguniang Panlalawigan unanimously declared DENR regional executive director Samuel R. Penafiel and Provincial Environment and Natural Office (Penro) chief Rodolfo U. Aradanas persona non grata to the province.

Also declared "persona non grata" were Penro forestry specialist Rudy A. Sebastian and Siocon Cenro Salahaddin A. Kaing, both with DENR in Zamboanga del Norte, and Rudy Cabuay, field manager of Sodaco, a logging company which the DENR officials had allowed to transport cut logs last month despite a logging ban decreed in December 2004. *With a report from Fe Zamora*

Shedding terror tag up to Joma

THE EUROPEAN Union has reiterated that communist leader Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army could get themselves stricken off the group's foreign terror organization list "by their own acts."

This was disclosed yesterday by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who met with and briefed EU officials on the status of the peace negotiations with the communist rebels during a six-day swing through Europe.

"What was made patently clear during the visit was that the NPA and Mr. Sison were placed on this list by their own acts and it will be by their own acts that they might be removed from the list," he said at a press briefing.

"Their acts that resulted in violence instead of peace placed them on this list. And when they renounce terror and abandon violence and choose the ways of peace, then perhaps they might no longer be listed as terrorist."

The EU placed Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, on its watchlist of foreign terror organizations a couple of years ago upon the Philippines' representation.

Romulo also confirmed that the Netherlands decided to deport Sison in October last year, but stressed that this was part of the government's "operations of the law" and not an offshoot of Manila's request.

"That's the reason he (Sison) filed a case against them," he said.

The Dutch courts had revised Sison's status as a political refugee and denied his request for asylum. He had appealed the ruling before the European Court of Human Rights, citing humanitarian grounds.

The Netherlands and Norway also proposed ways to restart talks with the National Democratic Front, the CPP's political arm, said Romulo, who was accompanied by Secretary Teresita Deles and Presidential Chief of Staff Norberto Gonzales.

"Ways to move forward have been suggested and will be seriously considered," he said, but declined to elaborate. "They will talk to the other side on what can be done. They will put the bridge so we can come across each other."

The NDF unilaterally suspended talks with the government in August last year after the United States renewed its terror tag on Sison and the rebels.

Romulo said that talks with the NDF would resume if it agreed to a ceasefire, saying "We hope we can have a peace agreement with the rebels. But first, there should be a ceasefire. Then we can start talking."

"I hope Sison and the NPA will agree to it."

United Auctioneers, Inc.
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
3 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
Still The Preferred Auctioneer!
FEBRUARY 20, 21 & 22, 2005
(SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY)
KOMATSU PC120-3
35 EXCAVATORS
LGP
Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best at Subic Bay
INSPECTION DATES:
FEBRUARY 17, 18 & 19 2005
(THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
REGISTRATION DATES:
FEBRUARY 17, to 22, 2005
(THURSDAY, TO TUESDAY)
15 GRADERS
MITSUBISHI MG3H
20 BULLDOZERS
KOMATSU D60P
15 ROLLERS
SAKAI R2
35 TANKERS
ISUZU 10W TANKER
10 MIXER TRUCKS
ISUZU 10W MIXER TRUCK
136 CARGO TRUCKS
FUSO FIGHTER CARGO TRUCK
60 WING VANS
ISUZU NKR WING VAN
ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE
ISUZU TROOPER 5-DOOR
NISSAN LARGO
SUBIC BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES TEL NOS: (047) 252-1129 • 252-1155 to 58 FAX NO: (047) 252-5569
MANILA TEL NOS: (02) 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 • CEL NO. 09178088824
FAX NO: (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL: :info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com
Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru ORIX METRO Leasing & Financing Corp. Tel: (02) 858-8888

Erap justice gets no relief from SC

By Philip C. Tubeza

MR. Suave won't be singing his swan song just yet.

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected the request of Sandiganbayan associate justice Edilberto Sandoval to be relieved from the antigraft court's special division which is hearing the plunder and perjury cases against former President Joseph Estrada.

In a two-page resolution, the high court denied "for lack of merit" Sandoval's request to be relieved of his "assignment" as member of the special division.

Sandoval, who earned the moniker "Mr. Suave" for using it as his ringtone, told reporters before the court's decision was announced that he would abide with the tribunal's ruling.

"If they say I should go back, then I will go back. If they say that it's OK (to leave), then it's OK," Sandoval said.

Citing his deteriorating health condition, Sandoval had asked the SC to be relieved from his position as a member of the Sandiganbayan's special division.

"My sickness is vertigo. I vomit whenever I have an attack. I also have high-blood pressure," he said.

Sandoval said he could carry on as chair of the antigraft court's 2nd Division but he might not be able to continue with the additional burden of trying an ousted President charged with graft.

"I could do that but not with the added responsibility, especially in an emotionally charged (case)," he said.

Sandoval added that the prosecution and defense panel in the Estrada trial had agreed that he would return to the trial only after the Supreme Court decides on his "letter of irrevocable resignation" which he submitted last Jan. 10.

But SC Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban earlier said that the high court was treating Sandoval's letter as "a request for relief" from his assignment and not as letter of irrevocable resignation.

He explained that Sandoval could not resign from the special division because that was "a specific assignment" from the high court.

"One resigns only from positions in the government but one does not resign from an assignment specifically made by the Supreme Court," Panganiban said.

"He was assigned to that job or that work. He cannot just give it up, in his words, irrevocably. One does not resign irrevocably from an assignment," he added.

As this developed, Sandoval yesterday told a group of lawyers in a speech marking the 18th anniversary of the 1987 Constitution that there would be no corruption in the judiciary if it were "left alone" by the powers-that-be.

"If they will leave the judiciary alone, there will be no graft and corruption. The judiciary alone and by itself cannot be corrupt," said Sandoval.

He shared the stories he heard about corrupt judges while he served as a Manila judge from 1986 to 1996, admitting that judges who owe their jobs to politicians are pressured to give favorable decisions.

The "trouble" is, he said, lawyers seek the intervention of powerful politicians, like congressmen, to influence judges who handle their cases.

"The judiciary is incapable of perpetrating graft. When a case is pending before a judge or a fiscal, nobody should approach him; nobody should talk to him about the cases," he added.

Sandoval made the comments in a speech during a gathering of the Vanguards of the Philippine Constitution, a group of magistrates and prominent lawyers, at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila.

Among those present were Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, retired Supreme Court Justice Bernardo Pardo, and Court of Appeals justices Regaldo Maambong and Ruben Reyes.

6 dead as troops, Abus clash

GOVERNMENT troops and al-Qaida-linked Muslim militants fought a four-hour gun battle in Maimbung, Sulu, leaving six people dead and at least three wounded, the military said Wednesday.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said the fight erupted at around 6 a.m. Tuesday when army troopers in barangay Kapok Punggol chanced upon 10 members of Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for kidnappings and beheadings.

The heavily armed Abu Sayyaf led by a certain Gumbahali Abu Jumdail, alias Doctor Abu, were later on reinforced by 60 more members, sparking an intense exchange of fire, Pascual said.

Government troops killed three rebels while two soldiers died in the clash in Kapul Pungol. Three other soldiers were wounded, Pascual said.

The United States has included Abu Sayyaf on a list of terrorist groups, and has offered a $5-million reward for information leading to the capture of its top leaders, including its chief Khadaffy Janjalani.

The group has been largely on the run following a six-month US counterterrorism exercise in Zamboanga and nearby Basilan island in 2002. Many of its top commanders have since been killed and captured by US trained soldiers. *Alcuin Papa, AP*

Tourist arrivals in Boracay in 2004 up 26% despite killings

ILOILO CITY—Tourists were unfazed by the killing of three foreigners and a Filipino in Boracay last year as arrivals to the island resort increased by 26 percent, the highest percentage growth in five years.

Tourist arrivals reached 428,755 last year, 26.31 percent higher than the 339,434 recorded in 2003, according to the data from the Department of Tourism in Western Visayas (DOT-6).

Last year, domestic tourists reached 291,279 from 251,704 in 2003.

Foreign tourists increased from 84,747 in 2003 to 121,023 last year.

German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni and Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite were found dead with multiple stab wounds on May 3 at Forstenhausler's three-story mansion called Dolce Vita, on Mt. Luho at Sitio Bulabog in Barangay Balabag.

Also killed was Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

Visitors in Boracay, known for its pristine-white beaches and crystal clear waters, have been on the upswing since 1996. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Philippine Airlines
Swingaround Valentine Treats

HONG KONG For As Low As US$179* with City Tour
BANGKOK For As Low As US$206* Effective January 21, 2005 with City Tour
HO CHI MINH CITY For As Low As US$300*
SINGAPORE For As Low As US$309*
KUALA LUMPUR For As Low As US$328*
XIAMEN For As Low As US$330*
GUAM For As Low As US$338*
SHANGHAI For As Low As US$413*
JAKARTA For As Low As US$418*
SEOUL For As Low As US$472*
KATHMANDU For As Low As US$605*

Package includes:
- Round-trip Fiesta Class Airfare
- Airport-hotel-airport transfers
- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Extra amenities for selected destinations

* Rates are based on twin-sharing accommodation. Package prices exclude airport/security/government taxes/surcharges and other expenses of a personal nature, e.g., tips and porterages.

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

Please call PAL Reservations at 855-7777, visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office or call your Travel Agent.

NEW!

Vita Velvet
Spa in a Facial

The ultimate spa experience is now in a facial treatment! Vita Velvet – an age-defying luxurious facial spa combining a deep-cleansing facial and rejuvenating massage. It revitalizes your skin with a specially reformulated anti-ageing ampoule, reducing visible ageing signs while reviving elasticity and suppleness. To make it a truly pleasurable experience, a soothing facial mask and pampering massage lock in the nutrients, making the effects last longer.

Call the Facial Care Centre professionals now.

Facial care centre

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)
Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

1st of RP deportees are back

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Filipinos staying in Malaysia without proper documents have begun arriving here since last week even before Kuala Lumpur could start its crackdown on illegal immigrants, local officials said yesterday.

Forty-nine Filipinos yesterday arrived at around 1 p.m. on board MV Mary Joy, bringing to 186 the total number of Filipinos who had returned under Malaysia's three-month amnesty period. Last Wednesday, 137 undocumented Filipinos were brought home by the same vessel and more were expected to return on Saturday.

The deportees, mostly from Sulu and Tawi-tawi, are being sheltered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Sta. Barbara. They will be sent back to their places of origin after their papers have been processed by the Task Force Deportees.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat met on Monday with members of the task force to discuss plans and contingency measures in dealing with the influx of Filipino deportees.

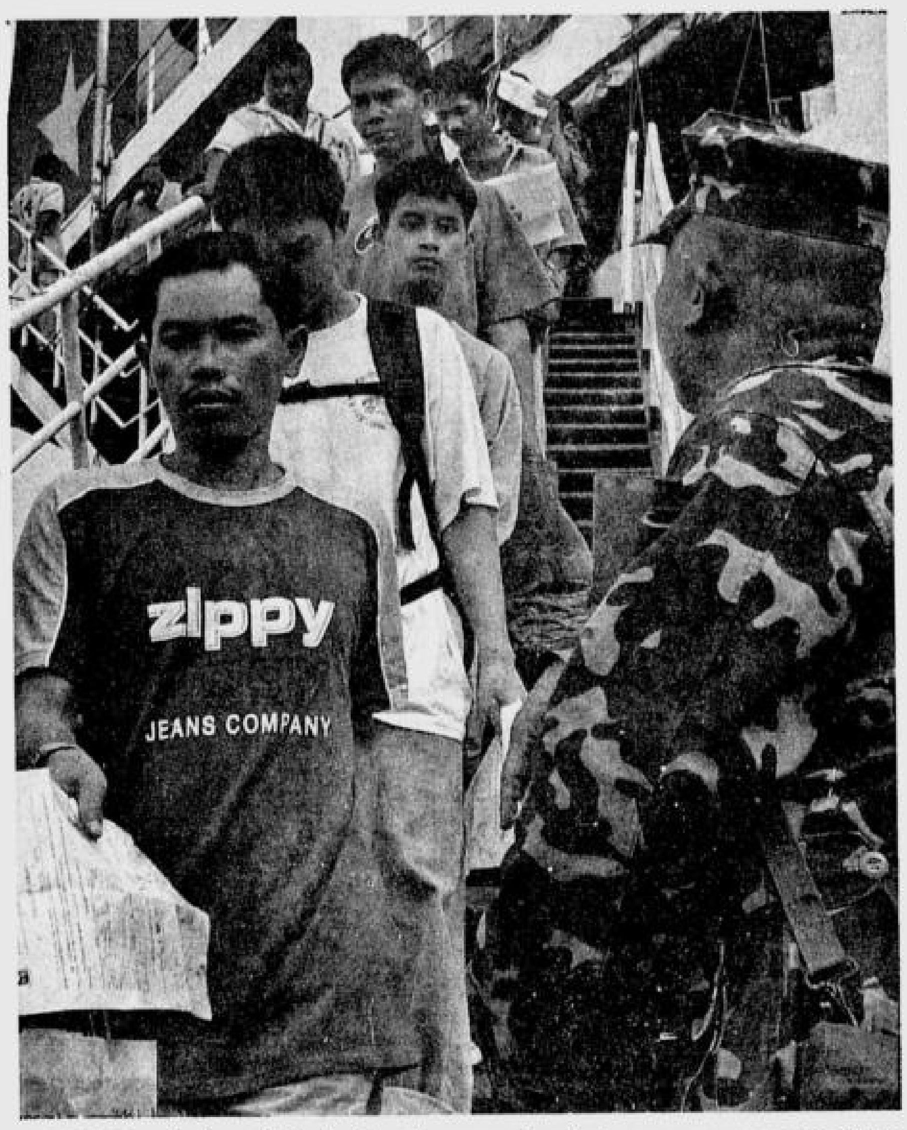
Discussions

A meeting is also being set between Lobregat and Philippine Navy officials to discuss the possibility of deploying Navy vessels to ferry returning Filipinos from Malaysia in case there will be no available commercial vessels.

The three-month amnesty period put in place by Malaysia ended at midnight on Monday, but Kuala Lumpur said it was temporarily suspending the crackdown in response to an appeal by Indonesia, which was hit by the Asian-wide tsunami on Dec. 26. Manila had also asked Malaysia to extend the amnesty to enable its officials to prepare for the arrival of the estimated 170,000 Filipinos.

Last year, Zamboanga City received a total of 8,440 Filipinos deported by Malaysian immigration authorities, according to Geraldine Balbuena of the DSWD.

Besides Filipinos who volunteered to return home, those who were sent to the Philippines include the "halao" or Filipinos who had been arrested and detained but opted to come back. *Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



FILIPINOS arrive from Malaysia after they were deported. TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

RP asks KL to clarify extension of amnesty

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES will seek a clarification on a decision by the Malaysian government to extend the amnesty period for illegal immigrants, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Malaysia's three-month amnesty for hundreds of thousands of illegal workers expired at midnight on Monday, but a threatened nationwide sweep to arrest them was put on hold at the last minute.

"We have to clarify the details [of the extension] so that we can also prepare our repatriation program," Labor and Employment Undersecretary Manuel Imson said yesterday.

It was not clear how long the fresh extension would last, but Imson said he was in constant communication with Malaysian immigration authorities. Imson is now in Zamboanga City to oversee the creation of a one-stop shop to receive undocumented Filipinos set to be deported by Malaysia.

Nearly 400,000 illegal immigrants took the opportunity to go home during the three-month amnesty period without facing any penalty, leaving at least the same number behind, according to Malaysia's official estimates.

Malaysia's Home Minister Azmi Khalid said the decision to extend the amnesty was taken at a cabinet meeting yesterday, based on a written request from Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"It may appear to most Malaysians that we have backtracked but we must put ourselves in Indonesia's shoes," he told a news conference.

"Imagine if our country was struck by a huge disaster and within a month our fellow citizens were treated badly in another country, how would we feel?" he asked.

Indonesians make up most of the illegal immigrants in Malaysia, many of them from Aceh province, the area worst hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami which left more than 289,000 people presumed dead around Asia.

Apart from Indonesia, illegal immigrants are drawn from the Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka by jobs in construction, plantation and service industries in relatively prosperous Malaysia.

The Philippine government had also asked Malaysia to extend the amnesty by a month to accommodate the estimated 170,000 Filipinos who failed to take the chance to leave the country legally.

Rehire Filipinos

Imson said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Malaysia was negotiating with employers of the Filipinos facing deportation to rehire them once they have legal papers to work in Malaysia.

DOLE said job placement and training-for-skills employment await returning Filipinos. *AFP*

TAXES FIRST

Palace to Congress: No time to Cha-cha

MALACAÑANG yesterday urged Congress to postpone deliberations on Charter change until all tax measures aimed at solving the fiscal crisis have been passed.

"The time for amending the Constitution will come after putting our fiscal house in order for the sake of the people," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"Once the economy is on solid footing, we can take off towards political reform," Bunye added.

Bunye's comments came after it was reported that the House committee on constitutional amendments had approved a proposed concurrent resolution seeking to convene the House and the Senate into a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Bunye said the passage of the tax measures which are considered crucial to preventing a full-blown economic crisis has already been delayed.

"We believe we're taking off very slowly and we do not want to lose momentum in these efforts to achieve reforms and towards putting our fiscal house in order," Bunye said.

The President yesterday seemed to regard the House move as part of the democratic process.

Long process

She said the House proposal would still have to go through the Senate and was just part of the long process of Charter amendment.

The House already has some lead time because it has already passed almost all of the tax measures that she had asked for, Ms Arroyo said at a press conference during a visit to Binmaley, Pangasinan, yesterday.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, a former House deputy speaker, said he knew that the President was "personally infavor of a constitutional convention."

But he said the administration's focus was the passage of the economic legislation, particularly the tax measures before turning its attention to Charter change.

The House move is already proving to be a divisive issue not just in the Senate, which is opposed to a constituent assembly, but in the lower chamber itself.

The President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo yesterday said he would go on leave from the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats if the administration party pushes for immediate Charter change, and particularly through a constituent assembly.

The Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, the President's own political party, warned of a breakup of the Lakas-Kampi coalition in the House if such a thing as described by the young Arroyo were to happen.

Charter change, particularly the shift to a parliamentary and federal system of government, is a longstanding project of Lakas president and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

A constituent assembly is composed of the House and Senate legislators convening in joint plenary to approve Charter amendments.

The House approved just such a measure in the previous Congress but it was junked by the Senate. Majority of senators are in favor of a constitutional convention, composed of delegates elected at large, instead of a constituent assembly.

The House move to push Charter change was deplored by administration Sen. Joker Arroyo who likened it to the "sneak attack" by the Japanese on the Pearl Harbor military base which started World War II.

Arroyo said it was possible the House action was a "diversionary" tactic to deflect attention from the heated debates on the value-added tax bill.

"The action of the House is strange and I would say is surreptitious ....while nobody was looking they sneaked in the resolution, Pearl Harbor-style," he added.

The Senate is holding committee hearings on the bill amending the VAT after the House approved its version seeking a two-percentage point increase in the 10-percent VAT rate.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said House action was "irrelevant, unresponsive and annoying at this time" when the Senate was in the middle of dliberations on the budget and the VAT bill.

Opposition senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Edgardo Angara agreed however that Congress needed to start addressing the Charter amendment proposal. Both said they favored a constituent assembly.

Bite the bullet

Enrile said the country cannot resolve its problems "until we bite the bullet and revise the Constitution" which he noted had "so many defects."

Mikey Arroyo said that if Lakas members were to be asked to take a common party position he would have to take a leave of absence from the party.

The young Arroyo said that Charter change can be taken up by the House in June after all economic measures have been passed.

But he would want the constitutional amendments to take effect after 2010, when his mother ends her six-year term.

Kampi spokesperson Rep. Anthony Miranda (Isabela) said "if Lakas will not be very careful and pushes this legislative measure without first conducting a series of consultations with its allies, the (ruling) coalition (in the House) will be at risk."

De Venecia defended the action taken by the House committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Rep. Constantino Jaraula (Lakas, Cagayan de Oro City).

He said all House committees are entitled to discharge their duties, including approving measures for action by the entire House.

He said the majority bloc would stick to its commitment to the President to finish all priority economic measures before Charter change is put on the table.

"Charter change will remain at the back burner until all revenue measures are passed," De Venecia said.

Last year, De Venecia proposed that the shift to a parliamentary system could take effect as early as 2007 with Ms Arroyo serving as "transition President" and concurrent Prime Minister. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo, Christine Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, February 3, 2005
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 12:18-19,21-24
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Jesus called the Twelve to him and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over evil spirits. And he ordered them to take nothing for the journey except a staff; no food, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals and were not to take an extra tunic.

And he added, "In whatever house you are welcomed, stay there until you leave the place. If any place doesn't receive you and the people refuse to listen to you, leave after shaking the dust off your feet. It will be a testimony against them."

So they set out to proclaim that this was the time to repent. They drove out many demons and healed many sick people by anointing them.

Commentary

The disciples have seen Jesus heal, and now they are sent out to the villages with the authority to heal and cast out any spirit that hinders people from living as the children of God, imitating his own work. They go with nothing extraneous to their mission: no food, no money, no bag, no money for things they might need, only a staff and sandals, no extra tunic for protection. This is the way of the pilgrim, the healer, the itinerant preacher who proclaims Jesus' presence and power with word of hope, the call to repent and healing touch that strengthens and turns people away from doing evil. As believers, this is our work, our calling together—some for a lifetime, others for a time of apprenticeship and learning, others to encourage and sustain those on the road for the Lord. Those who have this authority must live more simply, more truthfully and more in the service of others. Let us pray we obey the words of our Master—healer and speaker of the Truth.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Ambassador Syquia; 74

AMBASSADOR Enrique P. Syquia died at 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday at UST Hospital.

Suquia, a world-renowned international lawyer, having made a name for himself over 51 years of law practice and career, was 74.

He was the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the Philippines from May 13, 1996, up to the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, Leticia Corpus-Syquia and five sons: Dr. Jose Fernando, Rev. Fr. Jose Francisco, Jose Martin, lawyers Jose Tomas and Jose Luiz, daughters-in-law and 10 grandchildren.

His remains lie at the Capillas dela Virgen and del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church, Forbes Park, Makati City. Funeral Mass and necreological services will be held on Saturday. Cremation and private interment will follow.

SYQUIA

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CITIZENSHIP)—Repatriation—Republic Act No. 8171, Section 2, is clear that repatriation is effected "by taking the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and registration in the proper civil registry and in the Bureau of Immigration." Hence, in addition to taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, the registration of the Certificate of Repatriation in the proper civil registry and the Bureau of Immigration is a prerequisite in effecting the repatriation of a citizen. In this case, petitioner took his Oath of Allegiance on Dec. 17, 1997, but his Certificate of Repatriation was registered with the Civil Registry of Makati City only after six years or on Feb. 18, 2004, and with the Bureau of Immigration on March 1, 2004. The petitioner completed all the requirements of repatriation only after he filed his certificate of candidacy for a mayoralty position, but before the elections. Petitioner's repatriation retroacted to the date he filed his application in 1997. Petitioner was, therefore, qualified to run for a mayoralty position in the government in the May 10, 2004 elections. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Azcuna, Altarejos vs Commission on Elections, G. R. No. 163256, November 10, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

2 Army officers face summary dismissal

THE MILITARY has approved summary dismissal proceedings against two Army officers, one accused of sexual harassment and the other caught shoplifting in the United States.

According to Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga has approved the conduct of summary dismissal proceedings against Maj. Ferdinand Ramos and 2nd Lt. Rolly Joaquin before the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB) for administrative charges.

"General Senga approved the findings of the Army Provost Martial that Maj. Ferdinand Ramos and 2nd Lt. Rolly Joaquin should be tried before the Efficiency and Separation Board," Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said.

Both officers will be charged with violation of Article of War 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, Bacarro said.

The ESB is a military court that handles administrative cases against Army officers while criminal cases are forwarded to the general court martial.

Ramos, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1988, was accused of forcing Army recruits to engage sexual acts during their training. His sexual escapades were caught on videotape and aired over GMA 7's Imbestigador program.

Joaquin, the valedictorian of PMA Class of 2004, was deported from the US after he was caught replacing the price tag of a compact disc with the price tag of a lower-priced disc. At the time of the incident, he was taking military courses in the US.

Bacarro said the ESB would convene itself under orders of Senga and would be composed of a panel to be appointed by the Army chief.

"Evidence and witnesses will also be presented and the accused will be given due process in their cases," Bacarro added.

UST lecture on press ethics

THE VARSITARIAN, the official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will mark its 77th year founding anniversary with the second Jose Villa Panganiban Professorial Chair for Journalism lecture on Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. at the UST Central Library conference hall.

Veteran journalist Alice Colet-Villadolid will discuss the Philippine Journalists' Code of Ethics. The UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters alumna, who is a former Varsitarian columnist on campus affairs, was chosen to deliver the lecture in recognition of her achievements and her ethical advocacy in print journalism.

At one time or another, Villadolid was a reporter/correspondent for the New York Times, Newsweek International, and Asiaweek. A former press undersecretary and ombudsman of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, she now teaches News Development and the Craft of Writing at the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

The professorial chair, established in 1999 by the Varsitarian, is named after Jose Villa Panganiban (1903-1972), who conceived of the Varsitarian when he was a UST working student and became one of the original staffers of the paper in 1928. He is generally considered the founder of the paper. Panganiban was a reporter, radio commentator, linguist, lexicographer, translator, writer, educator and scholar. He became the director of the Institute of National Language and the author of the seminal Diksyunaryo Tesauro Ingles-Pilipino.

The lecture is open to the public. Call 4061611 loc. 8235.

Gov't to bid out ₱26-M contract to make Naia 3 a 5-star terminal

THE MANILA International Airport Authority is looking to hire the services of a property management company to ensure that the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is maintained like a five-star hotel or a classy mall with clean restrooms and spotless walls, a Miaa official said yesterday.

With the property management firm taking charge of maintenance, the Miaa could then focus on the management of the airport's operations, "without being bothered by still having to clean toilets," said Judith Dolot, the Miaa public affairs office manager.

Dolot said the invitation to bid for the P26-million contract, which the Miaa recently published, was part of the preparations for the June 21 opening of Naia 3 as announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But she clarified that the bidding would take place only after the legal dispute over Naia 3 is resolved.

"We're only getting prospective takers at the moment," Dolot said.

The government moved to expropriate the Naia 3 in December 2004 even though its compensation dispute with the Philippine Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) consortium that built the terminal has yet to be resolved.

The new terminal has been in mothballs since 2003 when the President revoked Piatco's BOT contract with the government on grounds that certain terms were illegally renegotiated by jailed ex-President Estrada, who was ousted for corruption in 2002.

The Supreme Court eventually handed down a decision voiding all contracts awarded to Piatco.

Dolot said that the hiring of a property management consultant was part of Miaa's efforts to run the Naia 3 professionally and make the terminal comparable to other high-end establishments in the country.

The property management consultant would handle "packaged services" such as setting up building policies and handling the facility's upkeep, janitorial services and zoning, among others.

The Naia 3 has been heralded as a world-class international airport that would help boost the economy once it is opened.

It will replace the Naia 1, the main gateway to the country, which is showing its age. Naia was opened in the early 1980s. *Nikko Dizon*

Sexual harassment in schools swept under the rug, says exec

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NINE out of 10 cases of abuse and sexual harassment in schools end up being whitewashed, a top education official admitted.

Jose Luis Gascon, undersecretary for legal affairs, said the department's existing procedures work against students and teachers who have suffered abuse.

"In the normal course of things, we will never know if a child has been abused in school. Nine out of 10, the incident will not be reported to us," Gascon said.

Even complaints by teachers against school officials are hushed up or dismissed at the school level.

Expressing frustration, Gascon said in his three years in office, only a minimal number of complaints have been endorsed to his office.

"We're just hitting the iceberg," he rued.

Whenever they learn of school abuse cases through the media, the school officials concerned would usually report to the DepEd head office that the parents of the student have agreed to a settlement.

"In general a lot of child abuse cases are swept under the rug. *Nagkakaayusan na* (Everything is settled)," Gascon said.

Even if the parents have agreed to a quiet settlement, "in my opinion the teacher complained of should continue to be disciplined," Gascon continued.

He said the procedure for dealing with complaints of abuse and sexual harassment are already outdated and have to be amended by Congress.

The 1967 Magna Carta for Public School Teachers mandates that such complaints should be resolved by an ad hoc committee in the school level.

Gascon said the case of Baguio City schools superintendent Alyson Belagan illustrates the disadvantage faced by the complainants.

Belagan was accused by two public school teachers and a private school principal of sexual harassment back in 1994.

Only the principal's complaint prospered; those of the teachers were either dismissed or shelved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Belagan was dismissed from service in 1995; the CSC upheld his dismissal in 1996.

The Court of Appeals, however, overturned the CSC's decision in 1998.

Last Oct. 19, the Supreme Court found Belagan guilty of sexual harassment.

But the high court downgraded his punishment to a mere one year suspension without pay in recognition of his 37 years of government service and his pending mandatory retirement this February.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad reinstated Belagan last month, saying he had to follow the court order.

Due to protests against Belagan's reinstatement, Abad said he was not aware that the complainant Magdalena Gapuz had filed a motion for reconsideration before the SC.

Pre-school not our expertise, says Abad

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's order to make pre-school a requisite to Grade 1 would not cover public schools.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad said the Department of Education would leave the running of pre-schools and day-care centers up to the private sector, the barangay and the local governments.

He said public schools could not offer pre-school classes anymore since they still have to address the deteriorating quality of public education.

"Our public schools won't offer pre-school. It's not in our line of expertise," Abad said.

"It's very clear to the President that it would be the local governments, the PTCAs (Parent Teacher Community Associations), and NGOs that will run pre-schools. It's more a local community concern," he added.

He said what the department would do is standardize the curriculum, instructional materials and teacher requirements for all existing pre-schools.

The DepEd would also assist those barangays that do not have a pre-school yet to put up one.

About a third of the 41,975 barangays in the country do not have a pre-school.

But DepEd would not provide the funds, Abad clarified.

On July 21, Ms Arroyo announced that she wanted pre-school to be incorporated in basic education. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

FERDINAND "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. smiles during a reception in his honor at the governor's mansion. AP

Bongbong in Hawaii for Feb. 7 court date

HONOLULU—The son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos arrived in Hawaii for a week-long visit to tour the islands' Filipino communities and appear in court for a class-action lawsuit over his father's estate.

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., governor of Ilocos Norte, began his visit Tuesday by signing a sister state-province agreement with Gov. Linda Lingle.

The document formalizes the relationship between Hawaii and Ilocos Norte that is the ancestral home to much of the state's Filipino population, Marcos said. He plans to meet with Filipino residents of Oahu and Maui.

Marcos also has a date in federal court on Feb. 7, ordered by a federal judge overseeing a class-action lawsuit over Marcos' late father's estate.

Judge Manuel Real is overseeing the distribution of assets to 9,539 Filipinos who won a $2-billion judgment against the estate in 1995. A jury granted the award after finding the late president responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture.

Appeals have kept the case going and the claimants unpaid for a decade.

Real has ordered Marcos not to talk about the case.

"Categorically, we would always want to have these things settled. But what will occur on the seventh is ... I don't know," Marcos said. *AP*

Romulo off to Japan to appeal

By TJ Burgonio

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo is leaving for Japan today in a last-ditch bid to convince Japanese officials to be more lenient with legitimate Filipino entertainers and press for the recognition of the government's current certification of their skills.

Romulo, fresh from a six-day swing through Europe, announced yesterday that he would meet with several members of Japan's Cabinet to tackle their new immigration policy regulating the entry of Filipino entertainers.

"I'm leaving with no false hopes, but I'm determined to leave no stones unturned," he said at a press briefing.

Romulo said that he would ask the Japanese government to allow legitimate Filipino entertainers now in Japan to continue working there once it enforces the measure, whose goal is to curb human trafficking.

"There's no retroactivity as far as the law is concerned. If it takes effect in May or June, that's OK. We would like the request or applications of the entertainers be entertained," he said.

"We will tell them that the new law, once implemented, should not prejudice the legitimate workers."

Romulo said he would insist on the credibility of Manila's artist accreditation card and press Tokyo to continue recognizing it.

SAMSUNG
Flexi MOBILE EARNER
"Earn more for your money! Invest in Asiatrust Bank's Flexi-Mobile Earner Peso Time Deposit and enjoy HIGH INTEREST plus a free SAMSUNG mobile phone!"

Mechanics:
- Open to all new placements of existing and prospective depositors for 4 and 5 year term.
- For four and five year term availments, the depositor is given the option to choose between gift coupons or a cell phone.
- Only P50,000 and above placements shall be qualified to avail of the cell phone promo.
- Placement amount shall determine the type of cell phone that can be availed.

Extended up to April 30, 2005
See Flyers for details, or call our Customer Service Hotline at 924-5777 or e-mail us at marketing@asiatrustbank.com

"I think..."

ASIATRUST Bank
Over 43 years of Working for the Entrepreneur
A Private Development Bank

Singapore Airlines
TravelBag
AVAIL OF SPECIAL AIRFARES AND TOUR PACKAGES AT THE 12TH PTAA TRAVEL TOUR EXPO
SM MEGATRADE HALL from February 4 to 6, 2005

SINGAPORE from US$308 2 nights hotel accommodation
AUSTRALIA from US$548
KUALA LUMPUR from US$388 2 nights hotel accommodation
LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO from US$798
BANGKOK & SINGAPORE from US$408 3 nights hotel accommodation
EUROPE from US$898
BALI from US$418 3 nights hotel accommodation
LOS ANGELES (on Executive Economy Class) from US$ 1,158
AUSTRALIA from US$678 3 nights hotel accommodation
NEW YORK (on Executive Economy Class) from US$ 1,368

Book and buy ONLINE at www.singaporeair.com/ph

A GREAT WAY TO FLY
www.singaporeair.com/ph
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

For more information on the above packages and airfares, please call your travel agent or SIA Reservations at 810-4951 to 59 (for airfares) and SIA Tours Desk at 751-5151/52 (for packages).

For departures from Cebu/Davao, please call SIA Provincial Reservations in Cebu at (032) 232-9211 and Davao at (082) 244-5608 All prices quoted are per person (packages are based on twin-sharing with applicable surcharge for single occupancy) and exclude taxes, fees and surcharges. Discount applies to children below 12 years old. Travel is valid from January to March 2005. Peak season surcharge applies for departures ex-MNL from 16-31 March 2005 to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok

Can people eat statistics?'

By Armand N. Nocum
and Christine O. Avendaño

"CAN PEOPLE eat statistics?"

Ousted President Estrada asked this question Tuesday, echoing a simplistic view of the economic growth Malacañang is crowing about.

Calling from his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained for plunder and perjury charges, Estrada said the 6.1-percent growth in the gross domestic product and the strengthening of the peso against the dollar were not good news for the poor.

"People cannot eat statistics. The people do not feel any of these statistics (government officials) are claiming," he said.

Estrada said the poor could buy neither dollars nor expensive imported goods. "These rosy economic figures don't mean anything," he said.

An opposition senator shares Estrada's skepticism about the surging peso.

"We have become a tiger economy all of a sudden," was how Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile greeted the news of the peso rally.

Enrile told reporters he did not know why the peso surged and said probably Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura would know.

For his part, Sen. Edgardo Angara said the peso rally was "temporary."

He attributed this to the "hot money in the stock exchange, the overseas workers remittances," among others.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said he hoped the strengthening of the peso would continue.

Arroyo also attributed the peso rally to the "hot money" that went into the stock exchange but said the money did not go to productive enterprises like factories.

"I don't want to be a killjoy, let's just wait and see," he told reporters.

In the House of Representatives, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House committee on ways and means, said that until the funds flowed into government coffers the country was not yet out of the woods.

Lapus said the public should not be deceived by the recent strengthening of the peso against the greenback, by the 6.1-percent growth in the gross national product in 2004 and by the buoyancy of the stock market.

These, he said, could only be sustained with the passage of urgently needed fiscal reforms and new revenue measures. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

TEACHERS pet: President Arroyo is mobbed by teachers of a school in San Carlos City in Pangasinan which had been renamed Doña Eva Macaraeg Macapagal Central I and 2 after the President's late mother. It was her happy chore to preside at the renaming rites on Wednesday. MALACANANG PHOTO

GMA says masses to reap benefits

From page A1

of this expansion to the people.

The President has been criticized because the economic expansion over the past three years has not filtered down to the masses, who have remained depressed about their lives based on recent surveys.

Poverty reduced

Despite the growth, the number of people living below the poverty line was reduced by less than three percentage points from 27.5 percent in 2000 to 24.7 percent in 2003 according to the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB).

This translates to roughly 100,000 escaping the poverty line as a result of the President's pro-poor programs such as providing jobs, granting easy financing and distributing socialized housing. Government, however, recently revised the definition of poverty, lifting a number of Filipino families from the poverty line.

The President acknowledged that last year's economic growth was "not sufficient to fight poverty but it was necessary to fight it, (although) it must be accompanied by other measures."

At a press conference after she inaugurated Binmaley's park, Ms Arroyo said these measures include the increase in the rate of the value-added tax (VAT) from 10 percent to 12 percent.

Booming call centers

She said the additional taxes could be used to put up businesses like seaweeds production and help improve the quality of education. "It is only then that progress will be felt by the townspeople," she said.

"When additional taxes are collected, we can fund education. More call centers will locate in the country if our educational system improves," she said, explaining that the 6.1-percent increase in gross national product (GNP, which is GDP plus net factor income like remittances from overseas Filipino workers) was mainly due to the booming call center business.

Beat the odds

Ms Arroyo also attributed the rise in GNP to the trading and retail sector. She announced that ShoeMart, a leading retailer, was planning to sell shares on the stock market.

The President's visit to Pangasinan was the start of the monthlong tour of the country to monitor projects covered by her 10-point program "Beat the Odds."

The acronym means "Balancing the national budget, Education for all, Automation of the electoral process, Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the entire country, Termination of hostilities, Heal the wounds of Edsa I, II and III, Electricity and water for all barangays, Opportunities for livelihood and the creation of six million jobs, Decongestion of Metro Manila by developing new centers for government and housing in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and Development of Subic and Clark into the best international service and logistic center in Asia."

In San Carlos City, the President inaugurated the 126-classroom Doña Eva Macapagal Central School, named after her mother. It houses the former San Carlos Central I Elementary School and the San Carlos 2 Elementary School.

Gift of city to GMA

Mayor Julian Resuello said the school was a gift of the city government to the President to allow her to achieve her 10-point agenda.

The P91-million school sits on a 2.7-hectare ground and was built through a bank loan amounting to P96.8 million. Part of the money was used to improve the Speaker Eugenio Perez National Agricultural School, Resuello said.

Ms Arroyo also launched the seaweeds development program of the Department of Agriculture in San Fabian town. The project will cover 2,000 hectares in the Lingayen Gulf and will benefit some 17,600 fishermen.

The program, which the President said was one of the means to support her job generation agenda, is expected to result in an increase in dried seaweed production.

"I am happy to be here. Pangasinan is a very important province and I ask Governor (Victor) Agbayani to look for agricultural lands, which will be a part of the P2-million land for rice, corn and mango production, and aquaculture. Be with me to beat the odds," she said.

Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Attention Senate: 'Bantay' barks ...

From page A1

And when the carnage happens at the grounds of the Senate itself, where the country's honorable legislators are supposed to champion rights, animals included, the act becomes ever more despicable.

Lately, dogs straying into the Senate premises have been shot at by trigger-happy security personnel as if they pose a threat to the lives of the solons.

One dog, however, miraculously survived but the bullet remains lodged in its head. Another dog earlier shot also in the Senate grounds ended up as "pulutan" by Senate guards.

Bantay can no longer endure the cruelty. With the help of his human companions, Bantay now stands up for his rights right at the Senate's door.

The "Dog Walk for a Cause (Luv ko c Bantay)," the first of its kind to be held nationwide, is part of a public awareness campaign to spread messages of concern for the plight of the Philippine mongrel.

It will also be a protest against the inhumane and indiscriminate killing of dogs that are prohibited under the Animal Welfare Act or Republic Act No. 8485.

Recent reports of widespread shooting and poisoning of strays to curb the spread of rabies and control overpopulation, the slaughter for food, and other forms of cruelty prompted the Philippine Canine Club Inc. (PCCI) to organize the event.

Misimpression

The walk will be held on March 20, starting at 5 a.m., simultaneously in Manila, Bacolod, Baguio, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, General Santos and Tarlac cities, and in the provinces of Bohol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cavite, La Union, Laguna and Pampanga.

Byron San Pedro, PCCI president, said the event hoped to change the world's impression of Filipinos as dog-eaters.

"We want to let them know that this practice is applicable only to some areas and does not represent Filipinos as a whole," San Pedro said.

Anna Hashim-Cabrera, director of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), shared his sentiments.

"We would like to encourage animal lovers all over the country to unite and show the world that we are not a nation of dog-eaters, but a compassionate and progressive nation," she said.

"That we have widened our circle of compassion to include both humans and animals because animals share the world with us."

According to Cabrera, the dog walk is one way to send out a strong message against animal cruelty to government and local officials.

"If they would see how many people are concerned about the humane treatment of animals, they will be more inclined to grant us dialogues every time we write to them offering to discuss humane solutions to the stray animal overpopulation and rabies problem," she said.

Torture

Luis Buenaflor Jr. of the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) said the "(random) shooting of dogs in the streets does not solve the overpopulation and the spread of rabies."

The method does not only torture the animal but also put the human population at risk, he said.

"What if the one assigned to shoot misses?" Buenaflor said. "The effective solution to all of this is responsible pet ownership."

Cabrera stated the provisions on the Animal Welfare Act for controlling animal population, especially of strays:

"A licensed veterinarian must be the one to humanely put a dog to sleep. Shooting and beating animals to death are not allowed except in extreme cases like self-defense. Certified sharpshooters are authorized to conduct shooting down of animals that cannot be trapped and put down humanely."

Record breaker

San Pedro said he wanted to redirect the efforts of the PCCI and be an advocate of animal welfare. The canine club has been in existence for more than 40 years but is more involved in traditional activities like dog shows. It has 40 affiliated clubs and 100,000 registered canine members.

"We want the club to engage in dog-related community service," he said. He said he wanted to impart the message that the group was also concerned on issues concerning *askals* (*asong kalye* or street dogs) and was not concentrated only on purebreds.

The nationwide dog walk will try to break the world record set by the Great North Dog Walk held in June last year at the Gypsies Green Stadium, The Leas South Shields, England. A total of 5,017 canines participated in the event.

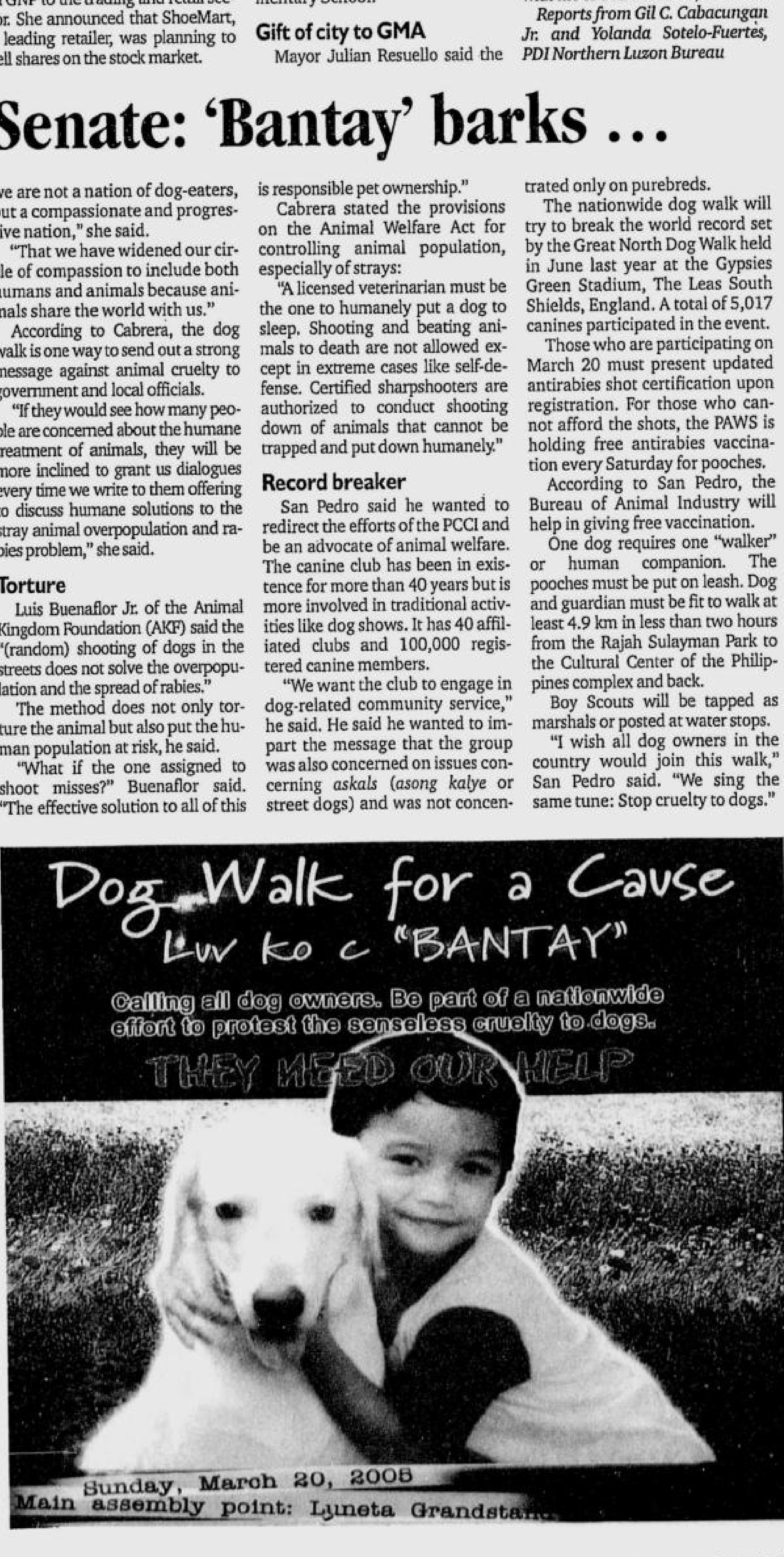
Those who are participating on March 20 must present updated antirabies shot certification upon registration. For those who cannot afford the shots, the PAWS is holding free antirabies vaccination every Saturday for pooches.

According to San Pedro, the Bureau of Animal Industry will help in giving free vaccination.

One dog requires one "walker" or human companion. The pooches must be put on leash. Dog and guardian must be fit to walk at least 4.9 km in less than two hours from the Rajah Sulayman Park to the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex and back.

Boy Scouts will be tapped as marshals or posted at water stops.

"I wish all dog owners in the country would join this walk," San Pedro said. "We sing the same tune: Stop cruelty to dogs."


Dog Walk for a Cause
Luv ko c "BANTAY"
Calling all dog owners. Be part of a nationwide effort to protest the senseless cruelty to dogs.
THEY NEED OUR HELP
Sunday, March 20, 2005
Main assembly point: Luneta Grandsta

Erap's lament: Am I that easy to forget?

From page A1

when he phoned yesterday 18 days after saying that he was no longer going to talk to this reporter since the INQUIRER, in Estrada's mind, sows nothing but disinformation about himself.

Jan. 31 press statement

Estrada said he called because this paper did not print his Jan. 31 press statement where he called for a total crackdown on syndicated smuggling, counterfeiting, drug-trafficking and money-laundering and the prosecution of government officials involved in these crimes.

The statement was one of many issued by the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), Estrada's political party, which went into high gear when Estrada came under attack for allegedly living it up in Hong Kong after his knee replacement surgery last month.

Barred

Two days before returning to the country on Jan. 15, Estrada barred reporters of the INQUIRER and ABS-CBN from seeing him in his upscale Hong Kong Parkview Hotel even as he joked that the INQUIRER would be attacked next by people loyal to Estrada's bosom friend, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

An ABS-CBN communications van was burned down by still unknown persons last month.

Estrada also spearheaded an advertisement boycott of the INQUIRER when he was President.

During the brief telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Estrada called on the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to finally remove the Philippines from the "list of non-cooperating countries, saying the move would have the effect of offsetting economic downgrades from the rating agencies and encourage the entry of investments.

Go after Perez

To convince the FATF that it was serious in trying to stop money-laundering, Estrada said the government should go after former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for "sheer demonstration effect."

ESTRADA: Don't forget me.

According to him, Perez is widely known to have transferred $2 million, from Hong Kong to Switzerland, following the award of a power plant project to IMPSA a few days after Ms Arroyo took office in 2001.

Asked if he was wanting to stay in the public eye as he plans to run in the next election, Estrada said he just wanted to do his best to help the country in his capacity as a Filipino citizen.

Ending the interview, he said: "Thank you. *Huwag mo akong kakalimutan* (Don't forget me)."

Change of heart

Estrada's change of heart toward the INQUIRER, according to two of his allies, reflects his nature of not holding grudges for long. Also, he fears fading into oblivion, they claimed.

"He would rather be hit by the media day in or day out rather than be forgotten by the media," said a trusted Estrada ally.

What about me?

Another Estrada friend related an incident over lunch where Estrada—after listening to a discussion of negative stories to write about the Arroyo administration by media persons supportive of him—suddenly cut in saying, *"Paano naman ako, hindi niyo na ba ako isusulat* (How about me, are you not going to write about me)?"

Police arrest ex-NBI agent for kidnapping

From page A1

ed P2 million from Guillen's friend, a James Marty Lim, as a condition for her release.

Soriano later agreed to Lim's counteroffer, a green Isuzu Crosswind XUV and $1,600 cash, according to the report.

Entrapment

The payoff allegedly took place at the north parking lot of the Citadel Inn at around 10 p.m. last Friday, or some four hours after Soriano's group had taken Guillen.

The woman was released unharmed an hour later.

The report said that unknown to Soriano, Lim had also sought the help of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer), the PNP's main antikidnapping unit.

Pacer operatives, backed by an NCRPO team, then organized an entrapment that caught Soriano, Ganzon and Rendon near a pizza house on Tomas Morato Street at around 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

Ganzon, 44, was identified as Soriano's close-in bodyguard.

Pope rushed to hospital

From page A1

brating Mass in the hospital room and that John Paul was concelebrating from his bed.

Precautionary

He characterized Tuesday night's hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary" for the Pope, who also suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Trying to appear reassuring, Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

John Paul was first examined in the emergency room before being taken to his hospital suite, Italian TV and news agency reports said.

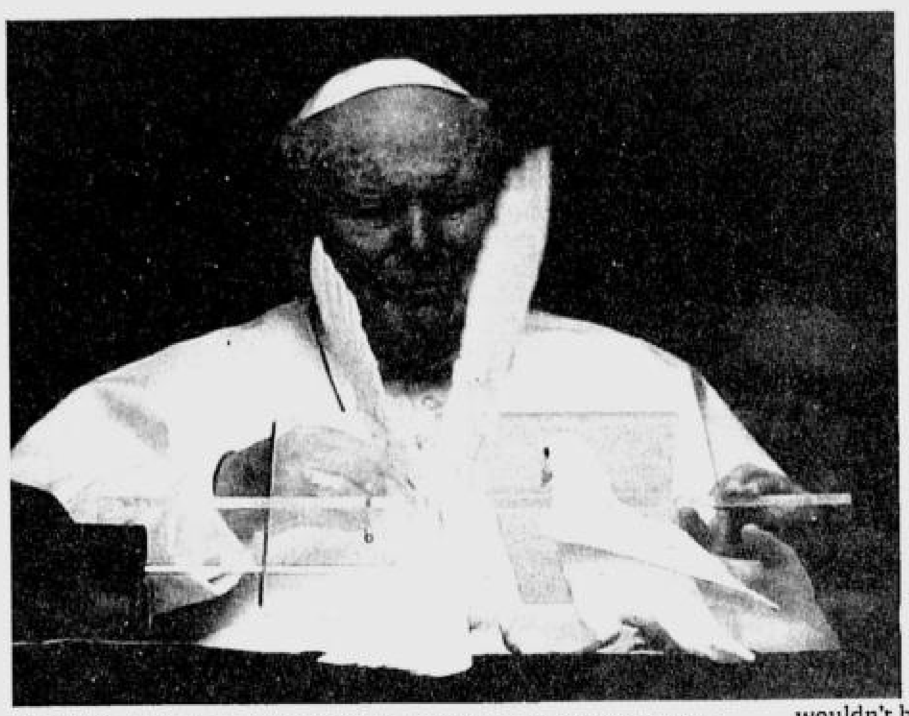
Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, told The Associated Press early Wednesday that the Pope had the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis—inflammation of the trachea, a breathing passage—and had a "certain difficulty in breathing." He denied Italian news reports that John Paul had a CAT scan at the hospital or that he was taken to intensive care. He also ruled out any need for a tracheotomy.

In a separate statement, the Vatican also said the Pope had experienced a "larynx spasm crisis."

Parkinson's disease

Tracheitis requires hospitalization and usually a breathing tube to keep the airway clear. The spasms are likely a complication from the respiratory illness the Pope has had. It is possible his Parkinson's disease, which makes muscle control difficult, made it harder for him to breathe.

The first sign of the frail Pope's illness came Sunday, when he kept clearing his throat during a 20-minute appearance at his studio window, thrown wide open on one of Rome's most bone-chilling days in years so he could release a pair of doves symbolizing peace into St. Peter's Square.



IN HIGH spirits, Pope John Paul II is entranced by two doves who appear reluctant to fly off the balcony window of his private apartment in the Vatican after they were released by children at the end of the Angelus on Sunday, a day before he was taken ill. REUTERS

Prayers for Pope

Prayers for the Pope were being said by faithful in churches around Rome, as well as in his native Poland.

"After we got the news we added a special prayer during our morning Mass," said Bishop Szczepan Wesoly, who presided at the service at the Polish church near Piazza Venezia in the center of the city attended by Polish nuns in black habits.

Security arrangements were among the tightest in memory at the hospital—a Roman Catholic teaching institution about 4 km from the Vatican—where the Pope had stayed some half-dozen times, starting in 1981 when he was critically injured by a gunshot wound to the abdomen in an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square.

Papal suite

The shutters on the windows of the Pope's hospital suite were open just a crack.

The hospital suite includes a chapel, a kitchen and sleeping quarters for his longtime personal aide, Polish Bishop Stanislaw Dziwisz.

John Paul has been a patient so often at Gemelli that the hospital has been dubbed by the Italian press "The Third Vatican" after the seat of the Holy See on St. Peter's Square and the Pope's summer residence in the town of Castel Gandolfo.

Scores of journalists and TV crews crowded the hospital lobby, and police stood guard outside the building.

Italian SKY TG24 television reported that the hospital staff arriving for early morning shifts were being made to park away from the hospital so they wouldn't be able to slip unauthorized persons inside as they drove into garage areas.

When he was elected Pontiff in 1978, John Paul was a robust 58-year-old with an athlete's physique who was serving as archbishop of Krakow in his native Poland, where he played soccer, skied and kayaked as a youth. Less than three years later, in May 1981, he suffered his first health crisis when he was shot by a Turkish gunman in the square.

Previous medical history

Other serious medical problems requiring hospitalization included a bowel tumor, described by doctors as benign and removed in 1992, intestinal problems which led to the 1996 removal of his appendix and a 1994 broken thigh bone, fractured in a fall in his bathroom.

A close member of the Pope's staff, American Archbishop James Harvey, said John Paul had congestion and a slight fever earlier on Tuesday, apparently symptoms of a flu that Vatican Radio on Monday had described as mild.

On Tuesday morning the Vatican announced that papal engagements including his weekly general audience on Wednesday was canceled.

Until the Pope was taken to the hospital late Tuesday, the Vatican had been issuing reassuring news about his condition.

Harvey said the decision to hospitalize the Pope was made by close aides in his apartment complex, who include his longtime Polish secretary.

Flu sweeps Italy

The flu has been sweeping through Italy since last December. The Rome region, shivering through nighttime subfreezing temperatures in an unusual cold spell, has been among the hardest-hit.

It was not known whether the Pontiff had a flu shot.

When Vatican Radio asked Navarro-Valls before the news of the hospitalization if the Pope felt the good wishes of people worldwide, the spokesperson replied: "I think so, and as always, the Holy Father is grateful for the prayers of the faithful and of all those who love him. I think this closeness means a lot to him." *AP*

PAPAL watch: The news media and their satellite dishes and trucks descend on the Polyclinic Gemelli Hospital in Rome where Pope John Paul II is confined in a special papal suite on the 10th floor for breathing problems and the flu.

Filipinos urged to pray for Pope

CATHOLIC Church leaders yesterday urged Asia's only Catholic nation to pray for the speedy recovery of Pope John Paul II, who was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital with breathing problems.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a senior member of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), told the AFP that the country's Catholics would be praying for the 84-year-old Pontiff.

Monsignor, Hernando Coronel, secretary general of the CBCP said: "We are offering prayers for the speedy recovery of the Holy Father."

Malacañang also expressed its concern over the Pope's health.

"Let us all join the rest of the nation and the rest of Christendom in praying for the recovery of the Holy Father," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Around 85 percent of the Philippines' 84 million people are Catholics.

John Paul II last visited the country in 1995 when his presence drew a crowd of some five million. He was due to make another visit in 2003 but the tour was canceled for health reasons. *AFP*

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF GLOBE TELECOM, INC.

All shareholders are hereby notified that Globe's Board of Directors approved an offer to purchase one share for every fifteen shares of the outstanding common stock of Globe (par value P50) from all shareholders of record as of 10 February 2005, at a price of P950 per share. The approval allows Globe to purchase up to 9,326,924 shares representing 6.67% of its outstanding common shares. Each shareholder is entitled to tender a proportionate number of shares owned at the 1:15 ratio for purchase by Globe upon and subject to the terms and conditions of the tender offer. Shares purchased on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on or after 7 February 2005 will not be eligible for tender to Globe.

The tender offer commences at 9:00 am on 3 February 2005 and ends at 3:00 pm on 2 March 2005.

Shareholders will be sent a copy of the terms and conditions, the tender form, other relevant information and the tender offer report filed by Globe with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC Form 19-1). These are also available from the Depositary or the PSE.

A valid tender of shares shall be made through the delivery of the duly-completed tender form and must be received by the Depositary prior to the end of the tender offer period, along with the following:

If you are a CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP OR TRUST:

A. Duly endorsed Share Certificates (unless the tender of Shares is through a book-entry transfer, in which case the Depositary must receive a Book-Entry Confirmation with respect to the Shares being tendered on or before the end of the Tender Offer Period);

B. A notarized Secretary's Certificate or its equivalent:
  (i) setting forth resolutions of the tendering Stockholder's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the sale of the Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose; and
  (ii) certifying to the authenticity of the copies of the tendering Stockholder's SEC Certificate of Registration, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or other equivalent constitutive documents,

C. Certified true copies of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and latest amendments thereof, and

D. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where it is maintaining an account.

If you are an INDIVIDUAL:

A. Duly endorsed Share Certificates (unless the tender of Shares is through a book-entry transfer, in which case the Depositary must receive a Book-Entry Confirmation with respect to the Shares being tendered on or before the end of the Tender Offer Period);

B. Two valid identification cards with the Stockholder's photo and specimen signature,

C. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the Stockholder verified by his broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or an officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where he is maintaining an account; and

D. A duly notarized Special Power of Attorney if he is acting through an attorney-in-fact.

Shareholders who decide to tender their shares should complete and execute the tender form and, together with the documentary requirements, deliver the same, either personally or through their PSE member stock brokers, to the Depositary at ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc., 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 849-8888, (Attention; Nilaida S. Enriquez) while the tender offer remains open.

Subject to appropriate verification and acceptance procedures, as well as the terms and conditions of the tender offer, Globe intends to accept validly tendered shares on 8 March 2005 and will send notices of any unaccepted or partially accepted tenders beginning 9 March 2005. All applications not covered by such notices shall be considered accepted. All accepted shares are expected to be crossed on the PSE on 15 March 2005, subject to the approval of the PSE. Following the cross of the shares, payment is expected to be made on 16 March 2005.

GLOBE TELECOM

TENDER FORM

Application to Tender Shares of Globe Telecom, Inc.

This Application must be prepared in quadruplicate and completed in all parts.		This Tender Form (the "Application") has been prepared for Stockholders of Globe Telecom, Inc. ("Globe" or the "Company") who wish to tender their common shares in the capital stock of the Company with a par value of P50 (the "Shares") to Globe at the rate of 1 Share for every 15 Shares owned. Each Stockholder is advised to read and understand the Letter to Stockholders from the Board of Directors of Globe and the provisions of the terms and conditions relating to this Tender Offer (the "Terms and Conditions") provided with this Tender Form, prior to making an investment decision. Inquiries and requests for additional copies of the Terms and Conditions or the Tender Form may be directed to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc., 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaida S. Enriquez (the "Depositary"). This Application, together with the Required Attachments set forth below, must be received by the Depositary not later than 3:00 p.m. on March 2, 2005, unless extended or terminated earlier at the discretion of Globe. Globe reserves the right to accept or reject this Application in accordance with the Terms and Conditions. Do not complete this application if you are not offering shares for purchase by Globe.	Application Number
White	Globe		
Blue	Depository		
Green	Transfer Agent		
Yellow	Tendering Stockholder		

REPRESENTATIONS & WARRANTIES

I/We, in executing this Application, represent and warrant that: (a) all information contained herein and the required attached documents are true and correct and that the signatures thereon are genuine, properly authorized, and obtained without the use of fraud, coercion or any other vice of consent; (b) I/We am/are qualified to receive this Tender Offer in every respect and that I/We are eligible to submit this Application without violation of any applicable laws and regulations in any relevant jurisdiction; (c) the tendered Shares are fully paid and non-assessable, free and clear of any claims, liens, encumbrances, charges or any restrictions apart from those specified in the Articles of Incorporation of the Company and that upon Globe's acceptance and tender of payment for the tendered Shares, in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, Globe shall: (i) obtain full and valid title to such Shares, free from any liens, claims or encumbrances; and (ii) be able to freely and fully exercise all rights and privileges arising from ownership of such Shares, including but not limited to the right to vote and receive dividends; (d) I/We have read and understood the provisions of the Terms and Conditions, and unconditionally accept said Terms and Conditions. I/We understand that no person has been authorized to give any information or make any representation with respect to the Tender Offer other than those representations specified in the Terms and Conditions.

Stockholder's Full Name (in print)	Stockholder's Address		
Stockholder's Signature	Tel. No(s).	T.I.N./Passport No.	Nationality

APPLICATION

I/We apply to tender Shares of Globe Telecom, Inc. under the Terms and Conditions of the Tender Offer, as follows:

Certificate Number(s) or Book Entry Confirmation	Number of Shares* Represented by each Certificate/Book Entry Confirmation	Corresponding Number of Shares* Tendered at the Tender Ratio of 1 Share* for Every 15 Shares* Owned	Price per Share*	Gross Price Shares* Tendered
			P950.00	
TOTAL				

*At a par value of P50.00 per Share

APPLICATION	
We received this Application, with all the Required Attachments below, at ______ a.m./p.m. on ______________, 2005	
Depository	ATR-KIM ENG SECURITIES, INC.
Authorized Signature	

APPLICATION	
This Application is hereby accepted for __________ Shares subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein	
Globe Telecom, Inc.	
Authorized Signature	

Oil firms favor VAT bill

From page A1

cylinder from the current P385.

On the other hand, requiring doctors and lawyers to pay a 12-percent VAT would hit the poor as the tax would be passed on to them, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said.

"By lifting the VAT exemptions of doctors and lawyers, the Arroyo government is, in fact, strengthening the commercialization of medical and legal services," Mariano said.

In the Senate, Chua told the committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto that any new tax was a burden to the consumers.

"But the debate here is what tax to impose because the government doesn't have money. If we were made to choose, our preference is VAT," said Chua.

He said Congress should do away with the excise tax.

"We prefer VAT because we think it is very efficient and sort of self-regulatory way of raising revenues for the government. Caltex's perspective is that the things which are very important to our industry (are) the growth of the country (and) sound finances," said Randy Johnson, country chair of Caltex Philippines.

Johnson said, however, that it's up to the government to determine the VAT rate.

"Whether 10 or 12 percent, the basic petroleum products right now in the market is pretty high. So our timing couldn't be worse but we still need to work together with the government for them to raise revenues," he said.

Napocor to raise rates

Recto admitted to reporters after the hearing that imposing a VAT on oil products would lead to higher power rates.

"It may translate because oil is a component of the cost to generate electricity by the power generators or the independent power producers," said Recto.

Under questioning by Recto, Roland Quilala, senior vice president of National Power Corp., (Napocor) said that if fuel would be slapped with a 10-percent VAT, Napocor would incur an increase of at least 70 centavos per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Quilala said a 10-percent VAT would result in additional 30 centavos when importing or purchasing oil, and another 40 centavos would be slapped on power plants for generation costs.

But Recto said the rates in Metro Manila would be higher than the 70-centavo increase per kWh, which, according to him, was the average for the whole country.

Meralco

The senator said the country's biggest power distributor, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), would just pass on the entire amount to consumers.

He placed the average increase in the Meralco franchise area at 80 centavos "if we impose another VAT on IPPs."

"If you impose a 10-percent VAT on gross sales, we are looking at P40 billion just on IPPs alone," he said.

With the oil sector and the IPPs, the government could raise P70 billion, or P10 billion short of the target of the Arroyo administration to be able to rein in the budget deficit, according to Recto.

But he said it was too early to say whether there was no need to increase VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent.

"I'm just giving the facts and the data we're studying. I'm not prepared to say what we will do at this point. But let's put on record all these information and data so that when we deliberate and make decision, we have all these data available," he added.

Equal treatment

Ernesto Pantangco, Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa) president, said that if VAT exemptions of private power generators would be lifted, similar tax breaks enjoyed by Napocor's IPPs should also be removed to prevent a price distortion in the power industry.

He said the Senate should consider equal treatment for both public and private power generators so as not to give Napocor's IPPs undue advantage.

"Napocor's present charter exempts it from all direct and indirect taxes. If they are excluded from the VAT coverage, we'll have a distorted playing field in the power industry because, prior to the full privatization of Napocor, the privately owned generators will actually be in competition with a subsidized state-owned firm, over and above enjoying preferential tax treatment," he said.

If the generation sector would be subjected to taxes not currently slapped on it, he said all industry players, whether government or private sector, should bear the burden.

Consumers to bear brunt

At the hearing, Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Ponce Enrile said consumers would ultimately bear the brunt of any lifting of the VAT exemption of fuel products.

"Everything ends at the consumer in this country," said Enrile.

To soften the impact of the measure on the poor, Chua suggested that the committee focus on socially sensitive oil products.

"(The) government should consider removing the specific tax on diesel (P1.63), fuel oil (30 centavos) and kerosene (60 centavos) so that the net impact on the products because of the increase in VAT would be lower," said Chua.

LPG is not being taxed under the current tax system.

PCCI wants excise tax retained

But the the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) favored not only retaining the excise tax on petroleum products but also raising it by two-percentage points.

PCCI president Donald Dee said imposing VAT on "everything" would have an immediate effect on inflation.

He said businessmen's initial objective was to "instill confidence in the public that the government is seriously addressing the deficit problem."

He said the passage of the VAT measure would show the investment community and credit rating companies that the country was serious in solving its fiscal problems.

Exceeds target

In the House of Representatives, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the committee on ways and means, said the money expected from new revenue measures like sin taxes and the lifting of the VAT exemptions was already P124.3 billion, far exceeding the P80 billion target set by the government when it first submitted to Congress a package of tax reform measures last year.

"This means that the people will now get a respite from the deluge of urgent" (proposed) tax measures, according to Lapus.

"It will be normal legislative business (in the House of Representatives). We have other bills but no longer dead heats. It's business as usual in the House," Lapus told the INQUIRER in an interview.

He gave an estimate of the projected revenues—P17 billion from the sin tax law, P10 billion from the lateral attrition law, P10 billion from the tax amnesty bill, P5 billion from the rationalization of fiscal incentives, P35 billion from the two-percentage point increase in VAT, P32 billion from the input VAT deferment to be spread out in five years, and P15.3 billion from the lifting of the VAT exemptions of certain transactions.

Debates next week

Lapus said the debates on the lifting of the VAT exemptions of power, petroleum products, professional services as well as the importation of ocean-going vessels may take place next week after the rules committee shall have calendared the committee report for plenary debate and voting.

The report will then be transmitted to the Senate.

Gunmen rub out key witness to killing of Pagadian journalist

From page A1

an but he had to earn a living for his family," the NUJP said.

Other witness nearly killed

Ongue, 33, narrowly escaped death last year when the firearm of his assailant malfunctioned. He has been in hiding since then.

Only last December, two motorcycle-riding men shot at Amoro but missed. His widow, Erlinda, said her husband did not report the incident to the police because he believed that it would be futile.

Chief Insp. Robert Roy Bahian, city police chief, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the gunmen had positioned themselves outside the school gates, and that one shot Amoro at least seven times.

Bahian said police investigators had found empty shells from a .45 cal. automatic at the crime scene.

According to Bahian, a security guard of the school and three members of Sta. Maria's Bantay Bayan witnessed the killing and had been invited for questioning.

He quoted a witness as saying that the gunmen wore caps, appeared to be in their early 30s, and used a red Kawasaki motorcycle to flee the scene.

Only 5 minutes

Erlinda Amoro, also a school teacher, expressed the belief that the killing was "a continuation of the Damalerio case."

She told the INQUIRER that she had gone ahead by a mere five minutes when her husband was shot. "We were supposed to go home together," she said.

Amoro was scheduled to testify when court hearings resume this month, Erlinda said.

She said neighbors had informed them of the suspicious presence of three or four men near a vacant lot that they usually passed on their way home.

Bahian said his predecessor, Supt. Ramon Ochotorena, had offered security escorts to Amoro.

"But it seemed the victim was adamant about having escorts. It appeared that he was antipolice," Bahian said.

He said that aside from the apparent connection between Amoro's killing and the Damalerio murder, police were also looking into Amoro's position as secretary general of Faith-Mindanao, a nongovernment organization campaigning for good governance.

Lip service

Shocked by news of the killing, Damalerio's widow, Gemma, called on the Supreme Court to grant her request that the venue of the trial be transferred from Pagadian to Manila or Cebu City.

"What would happen to [Amoro's] seven children?" Gemma said, adding:

"Those behind the killing of my husband and of Amoro are now smiling. But I still believe there's an Almighty God that will finally render justice to those who commit criminal acts against innocent people.

"How long will this culture of violence go on? How long will the government give us lip service?"

Chosen path

In a phone interview, Ongue called on the government to provide him "more protection." He also demanded that he be provided a firearm so he could protect himself.

He said he noticed a black DT motorcycle tailing him last week, forcing him to hide elsewhere.

Ongue said Ricardo Cabaron, a DOJ lawyer in Zamboanga City, had earlier offered him a safe house in the Visayas. But he declined the offer because he did not know the place and the people there.

"I feel safe here [where I am] than somewhere else," Ongue said. "This is the path I have chosen. I will testify for Edgar Damalerio. I am not afraid to die but I want to fight them as well. I don't want them to kill me in cold blood."

Damalerio was gunned down on May 13, 2002.

'I have to come out'

Amoro, a public school teacher for 21 years, had plans of taking a vacation in the United States where his daughter and her family live.

"Perhaps I need to have a little break from this kind of work," he told the INQUIRER last month.

But Amoro was not tired of teaching. What he was dismayed and feeling hopeless about was what he called the worsening peace and order situation in Pagadian.

He also seemed to have sensed that his time was nearing.

"I have to come out so that when I'm killed, the people would know who wanted me dead," he said.

Amoro gave the INQUIRER a copy of his affidavits, particularly one dated June 2002 wherein he instructed Damalerio's widow to show it to the court in the event of his murder.

In that affidavit, Amoro told of hearing two policemen saying: "Those two witnesses are acting like heroes ... when during the hearing they would be ambushed."

Lawyer Friolo Icao Jr., chief of the National Bureau of Investigation in Pagadian, had earlier expressed fear for the lives of Amoro, Ongue and Gemma Damalerio.

"I wonder why the court here is so slow [to act] when there are vital witnesses who should testify in court as soon as possible. If something happens to the witnesses, I doubt if the family can attain the justice it has long sought," Icao told the INQUIRER.

The trial has been suspended since October 2004, when Gemma Damalerio, citing the danger to her and the witnesses' lives, petitioned the Supreme Court for a transfer of venue.

'Outrageous'

In a press statement, the NUJP said the murder of Amoro "should put to rest any question about the ability of the Philippine government and its law enforcement agencies to handle the crisis faced by Filipino journalists."

It also called for swift action on the request of Gemma Damalerio for a change in the trial venue.

"Amoro's death is outrageous and gives the lie to Malacañang's claim that it is on top of the grave situation faced by Filipino journalists. It also underscores why witnesses rarely come out to testify against the murderers of media practitioners," the NUJP said.

The Damalerio killing was among the cases tackled by the recent fact-finding mission conducted by the International Federation of Journalists and the NUJP.

KONICA MINOLTA

Best of the Best at PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2005

A clear business opportunity awaits you in the digital age!

R2 SUPER 1000 KONICA DIGITAL MINILAB SYSTEM

400x800dpi World class resolution

Invest in Konica Minolta R2 Super 1000. Now!

The Essentials of Imaging

- High-resolution image quality, 400x800 dpi
- Large format printing, up to 10 x 15 inches
- Outstanding network compatibility
- Full-range digital services
- Safe and Clean ECOJET Compact system
- Faster digital printing
- Super high quality image with the Solid state Electro-optic shutter Array Device (S.E.A.D.)
- Auto Imaging Enhance Technology (Konica Minolta's A.I.E.)
- User-friendly

•Conventional Print vs. Print by S.E.A.D.

Conventional Print Colors R,G & B appear blurred at black letters' edges on white background.

Print by S.E.A.D. Black letters appear sharply

•One dot image

The same beam shape R,G,B allows the unified C,M,Y dye cloud.

Preceding technology SEAD

Visit us at PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2005 Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City on February 3 to 8, 2005.

Philippine Distributor:
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129 - 135 G. Roxas St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363-7463 • 363-8550 • 365-0927 / 28 • 414-3118 Fax No.: (632) 364-3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net www.columbiaglobal.net

Ask About Konica Product Today!
FOR INQUIRIES: Fax: (632) 364-3334
Name
Company
Address
Tel. No. Fax No.

Cop chief apologizes ...

From page A1

decided to accept his apology "for the sake of their common goal of service to the people of the province."

But in Manila, the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines said it would still press charges against Yebra.

"A threat can't be a joke, especially in the light of the killings of journalists," NUJP national president Inday Varona told the INQUIRER.

Varona said her group was now collecting affidavits from witnesses who had heard Yebra issuing the alleged threat. A criminal case should be ready in the coming weeks, she said.

How it started

During the confrontation between Yebra and the journalists, Sherwin Asis, station manager of Daet-based dzMD radio and chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas-Camarines Norte chapter, said the problem started when dzMD anchor Jorge Dayaon heard a remark from Yebra when they met at the Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative compound on Dec. 21, 2004.

Dayaon claimed that Yebra told him: "*Kapag nakakakita ako ng media, parang gusto kong pumatay* (Whenever I see a journalist, it's like I want to kill)."

Asis said a similar incident happened during the installation of the new deputy police chief of Mercedez town, where Yebra supposedly said: "*Galing sa Maynila yan, pumapatay ng media pag binabatikos* (He's from Manila, he kills journalists who criticize him)."

The Camarines Norte journalists found the remarks unethical and uncalled-for, specially coming from the highest PNP official in the province, Asis said.

"It is no joke that the Philippines is now the second most dangerous country for journalists, with 55 dead journalists since the mid-'80s, with all cases unsolved," he said.

Asis also said the front wall of the Bombo Radyo dzVX-Daet station was shot at three times at about 1 a.m. on Jan. 21.

Concerning this, Yebra said the police investigation was ongoing.

'Fruit games'

The Camarines Norte journalists claimed that the apparent harassment of their ranks was triggered by their commentaries on the proliferation of "fruit games" like the "video karera" and other illegal gambling in the province.

"What is bothersome is that these 'fruit games' are located near schools," said Efren Español of Bombo Radyo.

Español also said that because of their strong commentaries against the illegal gambling machines, they had started to receive threats through text messages.

He said he and a companion were now being investigated by the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group for supposedly being on the list of people receiving payola from the "fruit games" operators.

He denied ever receiving anything from such operators.

But Yebra denied having anything to do with the CIDG investigation.

He further denied saying that all journalists in Camarines Norte were corrupt.

Asis, however, said Yebra's statements, which appeared in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER, put all journalists in the province in a bad light.

He asked Yebra to name names, and promised that his group would cooperate in weeding out the bad eggs from their ranks.

Dismay

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) yesterday expressed dismay over the refusal of President Macapagal-Arroyo to meet with their and the NUJP representatives to discuss the rising number of journalists killed in the Philippines.

Gerard Noonan, IFJ representative and Sydney Herald beat reporter, lamented that Malacañang had canceled their scheduled meeting despite the gravity of the situation. He said he would make and send the appropriate report to the IFJ headquarters within the next two weeks. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson F. Flores in Manila*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nepal king unveils new Cabinet

KATMANDU—Nepal's King Gyanendra unveiled a new Cabinet Wednesday, a day after sacking the government and imposing an indefinite state of emergency in a move that has sparked international condemnation.

In an announcement carried by state television and radio, the monarch named Rames Nath Pandey as foreign minister in a Cabinet that also included a communist member, Radha Krishna Mainali, at sports and education.

The king announced Tuesday that he would head the new government after the previous administration failed to ensure security in the face of the Maoist rebellion that has claimed more than 11,000 lives since 1996.

Demonstrations were expected in the Himalayan kingdom later Wednesday to protest the king's decision, but details were scarce, with all telephone lines and mobile telephone networks down.

Officials on Tuesday from different parties said several political leaders had been placed under house arrest as security was increased around the capital.

The king's dismissal of the ruling coalition was condemned by the United States, United Nations, Britain and India as a setback for democracy.

King Gyanendra on Tuesday pledged to "restore democracy and law and order in the country in the next three years."

"Innocent children were found massacred and the government could not achieve any important and effective results," he said, referring to the Maoist revolt.

"The crown traditionally is held responsible for the protection of national sovereignty, democracy and people's right to live peacefully," he said.

Political leaders accused the king of a coup.

Dismissed prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who was also sacked in 2002, accused the king of "a flagrant violation of the constitution of Nepal."

"It is an antidemocratic step and we strongly denounce this act. This step has thrown the country into a grave crisis," he said.

"Various political leaders including the prime minister and the secretary general of the NCP-UML (Nepali Congress Democratic Party-United Marxist Leninist) Madhav Kumar Nepal have been put under house arrest," Deuba said.

The king first sacked Deuba in 2002 and branded him incompetent for dissolving parliament but then failing to organize elections.

But he recalled the veteran politician last year, ordering him to hold elections and resume talks with Maoists amid international and domestic pressure to restore democracy.

Witnesses and Deuba's supporters said several government ministers, particularly those from Deuba's Nepali Congress Democratic Party, were taken by security personnel to an unknown destination.

Troops and armed police patrolled the streets and surrounded the palace and other key sites such as government buildings.

Residents of Katmandu said outgoing landline telephone and mobile phone links were cut. India and Thailand meanwhile suspended all flights to Nepal.

In London Foreign Office Minister Douglas Alexander summoned the Nepalese ambassador Prabal Rana to convey the British government's "grave concerns." *AFP*

NEPALESE soldiers stand guard outside the parliament building in Katmandu Wednesday.. REUTERS

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?

It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology **Therabreath System™** a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/ sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.* Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work. Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.

Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-8380; 895-5532; 897-2466
Cel# 0917-7965859;0919-5109455

WANT TO HAVE...
* SPARKLING CLEAR POOL WATER
* THE SAFEST POTABLE WATER SUPPLY
* PROVEN EFFECTIVE SANITIZING AGENT
THEN START USING...

hth DRY CHLORINATOR CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE GRANULAR

65% min. available chlorine
Made in U.S.A.

Exclusive Philippine Distributor:
L & S CHEMICAL SUPPLY, INC.
#24 Paterio Aquino Avenue,
Tonsuya, Malabon City
Tel. no. 285-2002 Fax no. 285-2910
Call or text at (0917) 8931923 or
E-mail at landschem@pacific.net.ph

IWATA TIME RECORDERS
DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
FREE DEMO

Digital Clock 10:10
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock

P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A
P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual
P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A
VERY HEAVY DUTY

E2A 2Color & CH-1A/CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T. Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar

SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph

Final vote count in Iraq starts

AN IRAQI woman casts her vote in a polling station set up in a tent in the mainly Sunni Muslim city of Falluja. AFP

BAGHDAD—Iraq compiled election results on Tuesday and eased the security lockdown for the historic multiparty vote despite al-Qaida's vow to pursue "holy war."

Vote totals were being checked and re-checked, then added up by computer in secrecy after tallies were completed by hand at thousands of polling stations where voters flocked on Sunday in defiance of insurgents' threats of a bloodbath.

Final results, expected next week, are certain to put Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority in power for the first time, marking a sea change in the nation's politics after eight decades of rule by minority Sunni Muslim Arabs.

A Shiite leader claiming victory said on Tuesday he wanted all groups, including Sunni Arabs, to help shape the future.

"The United Iraqi Alliance scored a sweeping victory. We know that the majority of those who voted cast their vote for the alliance," Abdul Aziz al-Hakim said.

Hakim tops the candidate list of the Alliance, drawn up with the blessing of revered Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

He also leads the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, one of the main parties in the powerful Alliance.

Although Iraqis streamed to the polls in Shiite areas and the Kurdish north, turnout was low in the Sunni heartland where the 22-month-old insurgency is strongest—highlighting the dangerous sectarian rifts facing a new government.

Despite better than expected election results, with less bloodshed than feared, violence persisted around the country occupied by US-led forces who toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Seven people were killed in three roadside bombings north of Baghdad and two died in a roadside blast in the Kurdish city of Arbil on Tuesday.

In another incident, Iraq's human rights minister said US guards who shot dead four detainees on Monday should be put on trial if found to have used excessive force to quell a riot. *Reuters*

IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Tomorrow, February 4, 2005, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. The Men of the Sacred Heart is inviting you to attend the 6 PM mass at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park,Makati City to be celebrated by Bishop Ted Bacani which will be followed by a healing prayer meeting with Fr. Joey Faller in the Parish Center every First Friday of the month.

KITANO
Call now at: 890-5310 • 890-5320 • 890-5327 • 896-7764
e-mail ad: k8office@yahoo.com
website: www.nlboworld.com

HEAVY DUTY BINDERS
Wire Binder WB-4025D
NEW Plastic Comb Binder
40 Holes (14") 24 Holes (14") BM-C24D

MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• Adjustable printing position • Pre-set counter
• 120 copies per minute • Dual operation SD-8800

BILL COUNTERS NEW
• UV Counterfeit Detector • 900 notes per minute
MC-2088
MC-6700II • UV Counterfeit Detector • Variable Speed • Preset and Addition Mode • Note Detection

CHECKWRITERS
CW-1600 • Multi-Currency • 14-digits • HEAVY DUTY
• 10-digits • With Calculator • Embossed Printing • HEAVY DUTY KI-880

LAMINATOR NEW 13 inches LM-330A
• Adjustable Temperature • 4 HEAVY DUTY Rollers Other Sizes: 3 & 12.5 inches

BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two color Printing • W/ Musical Melody • Auto Card Feed • Auto Column Shifting • Back-up Battery • HEAVY DUTY •

EDA EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
A Training and Development Center
established since 1968
4/F, Manila Astral Tower, 1330 Taft Ave. corner P. Faura, Mar
Telephone Nos. 521-8236; 523-6465; 524-681

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS FOR FEBRUARY, 2005
• KOREAN LANGUAGE
February 19 - March 19, 2005 Saturday 2:00 PM-6:00 PM
• FOOKIEN LANGUAGE
February 19 - March 19, 2005 Saturday 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM
• ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
February 12 - March 12, 2005 Saturday 9:00 AM -12:00 NN
• SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM
February 14 - 25, 2005 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• SMART TECHNIQUES FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION (ORAL AND WRITTEN)
February 15 - 24 2005 T-Th 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
• OFFICE MANAGEMENT FOR SECRETARIES, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS
February 15 -24, 2005 T-Th 6:00PM - 8:30PM
• BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
February 19 - March 5, 2005 Saturday 1:00AM - 5:00 NN
• FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR NON-FINANCIAL MANAGERS
February 19 - March 5, 2005 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00PM
• LAW FOR NON-LAWYERS
February 19 - March 5, 2005 Saturday 1:00PM - 5:00 PM
• WORK SIMPLIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
February 12, 2005 Saturday 1:00PM - 5:00 PM
• PLANNING, DIRECTING AND CONTROLLING SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
February 12, 2005 Saturday 1:00PM - 5:00 PM
• JOB INTERVIEW
February 12, 2005 Saturday 1:00PM - 5:00 PM

EDA Seminars are accredited by
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
EDA Courses are also available on
Tutorial or in-house basis

Videos at Guantanamo show prisoners being punched and stripped

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Videotapes of riot squads subduing troublesome terror suspects at the US prison camp at Guantanamo Bay show the guards punching some detainees, tying one to a gurney for questioning and forcing a dozen to strip from the waist down, according to a secret report. One squad was all-female, traumatizing some Muslim prisoners.

Investigators from US Southern Command in Miami, which oversees the camp in Cuba, wrote the report that was obtained by The Associated Press after spending a little over a week in June reviewing 20 hours of videotapes involving "Immediate Reaction Forces."

The camp's layout prevented videotaping in all the cells where the five-person teams—also known as "Immediate Response Forces"—operated, the report said. Reviewers said they did not look at all of the available videotapes.

Although the report cited several cases of physical force, reviewers said they found no evidence of systemic detainee abuse, according to the six-page summary dated June 19, 2004. An official familiar with the report authenticated it, speaking to AP on condition of anonymity. AP also reviewed an unclassified log of the videotape footage.

The tapes raised questions about mistreatment and misconduct, however, said the investigators, who suggested some clips needed more scrutiny to rule out abuse. The military has cited 10 substantiated cases of abuse at Guantanamo, and announced Tuesday an extension would be granted for an investigation to interview of witnesses in the United States and abroad.

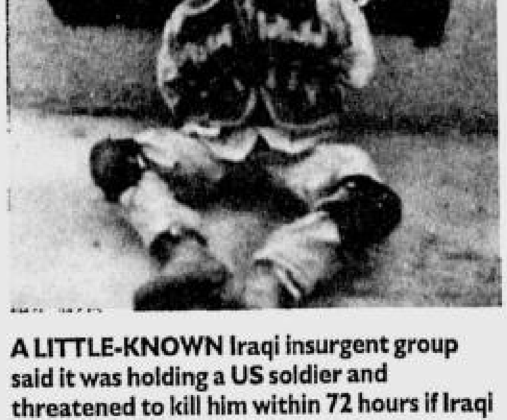
One such clip the investigators flagged was from Feb. 17, 2004. It showed "one or more" team members punching a detainee "on an area of his body that seemingly would be inconsistent with striking a pressure point," which is a sanctioned tactic for subduing prisoners.

In five other clips showing detainees who appeared to have been punched by team members, the investigators said: "The punching was in line with accepted law enforcement practice of striking the pressure point on the back of the thigh to temporarily distract the detainee."

In other "questionable" cases, reviewers said a video showed a guard kneeing a detainee in the head, while another showed a team securing a detainee to a gurney for an interrogation.

A separate clip captured a platoon leader taunting a detainee with pepper spray and repeatedly spraying him before letting the reaction team enter the cell, reviewers wrote.

Investigators also noted about a dozen cases where detainees were stripped from the waist down and taken to the "Romeo block," of the camp. No female guards were involved, they said. *AP*



A LITTLE-KNOWN Iraqi insurgent group said it was holding a US soldier and threatened to kill him within 72 hours if Iraqi prisoners were not released. The claim could not be verified. REUTERS

US 'hostage' may be doll, says maker

WASHINGTON—A photograph of what Islamist militants claimed was a captured US soldier may be instead a toy figure sold at US military bases in the Middle East, the toy's manufacturer said Tuesday.

A Pentagon official said no US soldiers had been reported missing, and a spokesperson for Dragon Models USA Inc. said the figure in the photograph resembles "Cody," an action figure based on US special forces soldiers fighting in Iraq.

"For us, it bears a striking resemblance," spokesperson Liam Cusack said from the company's headquarters in City of Industry, California.

The photograph posted on an Islamic website along with the claim purported to show a soldier seated on the ground with a gun pointed at his head. The figure in the photograph is wearing a desert camouflage uniform and a vest, and appears stiff and expressionless. A gun is seen pointing at the figure's head. *AFP*

FOR ALL YOUR AUTO REPAIR AND SERVICE NEEDS...

NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!

Anson Auto Service Center

LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIME YOU WANT

DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!

SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND FEEL THE RESULTS.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
AYALA CENTER, A. ARNAIZ AVENUE (FORMERLY PASAY ROAD), CORNER WEST DRIVE, MAKATI CITY
8922212 • 8922213 • 8922214
8867552 • 8867551

A. ARNAIZ AVE. (FORMERLY PASAY ROAD) THIS WAY
ANSON AUTO SERVICE CENTER
ANSON EMPORIUM
AYALA BUS TERMINAL
PARKING
PARKING
PARK SQUARE 2
MAKATI AVENUE
THIS WAY

OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

Death toll in Asian tsunamis passes 290,000

JAKARTA—The number of people presumed dead in December's earthquake and tsunamis rose to more than 290,000 Wednesday, with Indonesian authorities announcing a further increase in the number of dead.

Indonesia was hardest-hit by the Dec. 26 quake and tsunamis, with a total 237,071 people listed as dead or missing, the health ministry said.

A health ministry official said the 127,774 people listed as missing but who almost certainly perished would only be considered dead after one year.

Thailand's toll remained at 5,393 confirmed dead. A further 3,071 people were listed as missing, more than 1,000 of them foreigners.

The toll in Sri Lanka, which was second hardest hit by the catastrophe, stood at 30,957, according to the Center for National Operations.

The number of people missing was 5,637, but many were expected to be among those never formally identified, hurriedly buried and included in the confirmed death toll.

In neighboring India, the official death toll has reached 10,749 with 5,640 still reported missing and feared dead.

The government said Monday that it would make up its final casualty figures in "about a week" in which it is expected to declare the missing dead.

Burma has said 61 people were killed in the tsunamis, against an estimated 90 deaths according to the United Nations.

At least 82 people were killed and another 26 were missing in the Maldives.

Sixty-eight people were dead in Malaysia, most of them in Penang, according to police, while Bangladesh reported two deaths.

Fatalities also occurred on the east coast of Africa where 298 people were declared dead in Somalia, 10 in Tanzania and one in Kenya.

Relief workers have said they believe the figure for Somali fatalities to be exaggerated.

The US Geological Survey said the earthquake west of the Indonesian island of Sumatra measured 9.0 on the Richter scale, making it the largest quake worldwide in four decades.

In Bangkok, experts said Wednesday that up to 90 percent of the millions affected by the Asian quake disaster are suffering mental trauma, conditions which could prompt a "second tsunami" unless support and treatment are given.

After alarms over post-traumatic stress disorder in the wake of the killer waves were sounded in early January, hundreds of healthcare professionals, academics and officials gathered in Bangkok from Wednesday for the first conference on mental health challenges after the tsunami.

"Based on prior experience from other mass disasters, we can expect that between 50 and 90 percent of the (affected) population will experience conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder and depression which, if untreated, may last for years," said conference head Jonathan Davidson, a professor at Duke University. *AFP*

DEATH TOLL

Indonesia	237,071
Sri Lanka	30,957
India	16,389
Thailand	5,393
Maldives	82
Malaysia	68
Burma	61
Bangladesh	2
Somalia	298
Tanzania	10
Kenya	1
Total	290,332

DNA test ordered on tsunami baby

COLOMBO—A Sri Lankan court on Wednesday ordered a DNA test to determine whether a couple claiming to be the parents of a baby who survived last month's tsunami were really his mother and father.

A district judge in Sri Lanka's eastern fishing hamlet of Kalmunai ordered the infant known as "Baby 81" be returned to the care of staff at a local hospital, pending results of the test.

"It is better to be sure, so the DNA test is the best option," Additional District Judge M. P. Mohideen told the court.

"So the court is ordering a DNA test even though there is only one couple claiming the infant."

The court's decision did not go down well with the couple who say the baby is theirs.

"When the judge announced the decision, the gentleman claiming to be the boy's father almost fainted in court and threatened to kill himself," the court's registrar, M. S. M. Nazeer, said.

Newspaper reports have said nine women claimed the boy as their son in the aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami, but police say only one couple had said the baby was theirs. *Reuters*

Hearing Solutions from Siemens
Enjoy the golden years of your life with better hearing
Free hearing test at Sountex
We're Sountex - the best hearing care has to offer - great service, quality products manufactured by Siemens and the knowledge that your hearing needs will be met. In the photo on the right, you'll notice the latest Siemens hearing aid- so small you can barely see it!
If you think you or family member may have a hearing loss, call us to schedule a FREE HEARING TEST.
MAKATI
Suite 1703 Medical Plaza,
Makati City
ORTIGAS
Robinsons Galleria,
Quezon City
QUEZON CITY
Quezon City
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
www.sountex.com

Clinton named UN special envoy for tsunami relief

CLINTON

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations confirmed Tuesday it had offered former US president Bill Clinton the job of UN special envoy for tsunami relief, and that Clinton had accepted.

"The secretary general has indeed offered to former US president Bill Clinton the position of his Special Envoy for Tsunami-affected Countries and president Clinton has accepted," a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a brief statement.

"The Secretary General is confident that president Clinton will bring energy, dynamism and focus to the task of sustaining world interest in the vital recovery and reconstruction phase following the tsunami disaster that hit south Asia on 26 Dec. 2004," the statement said.

"He (Annan) believes that no one could possibly be better qualified for this task," it added.

Annan and Clinton will make a joint appearance later this month to provide details on Clinton's appointment when the former US leader returns from a visit to the region with former US president George Bush.

Clinton and his predecessor Bush have already been asked by current US President George W. Bush to lead private US fundraising efforts for the victims of the Dec. 26 killer waves, which left more than 289,000 people dead.

Annan's spokesperson, Fred Eckhard said Annan wanted to name a special envoy "to keep world attention focused on the cleanup and the reconstruction." *AFP*

First known Cambodian bird flu victim dies in Vietnam

HANOI—A Cambodian woman who died in southern Vietnam has tested positive for bird flu, becoming the first Cambodian known to have died from the virus, a doctor said Tuesday.

The 25-year-old was admitted to hospital in the southern province of Kien Giang on Jan. 28 and died two days later of respiratory failure.

"The test results showed that she was positive to the H5N1 virus," doctor Phan Anh Tu from Ho Chi Minh City's Pasteur Institute said.

A doctor from Kien Giang provincial hospital said the woman's 14-year-old brother had died that 10 days earlier in Cambodia's Kampot province.

"Her relatives told us that he died after showing similar symptoms," she said, adding that they lived in areas of Cambodia where many chickens have been infected. No tests have been made on the brother.

The Cambodia Daily quoted the woman's father as confirming the boy had died in mid-January with similar symptoms, and that other members of the family were suffering from high fevers and respiratory problems.

"In December my chickens, about 50—five hens and the rest chicks—fell sick for a few hours and then died," the father, Ngoy Uy, told the newspaper.

A Cambodian official said his government had yet to receive word from Vietnam about the case.

"We have not yet received any official information," said San Vanthy, an agriculture official responsible for monitoring bird flu.

"We have sent officials to the area to monitor and we have banned imports of poultry throughout the area," he added.

Cambodia has not announced any outbreaks of the virus so far this year and has never reported any human infections.

The virus has claimed 13 lives in Vietnam since Dec. 30 and 33 since the end of 2003. Twelve people have also died in Thailand from the virus that has swept Asia since December 2003.

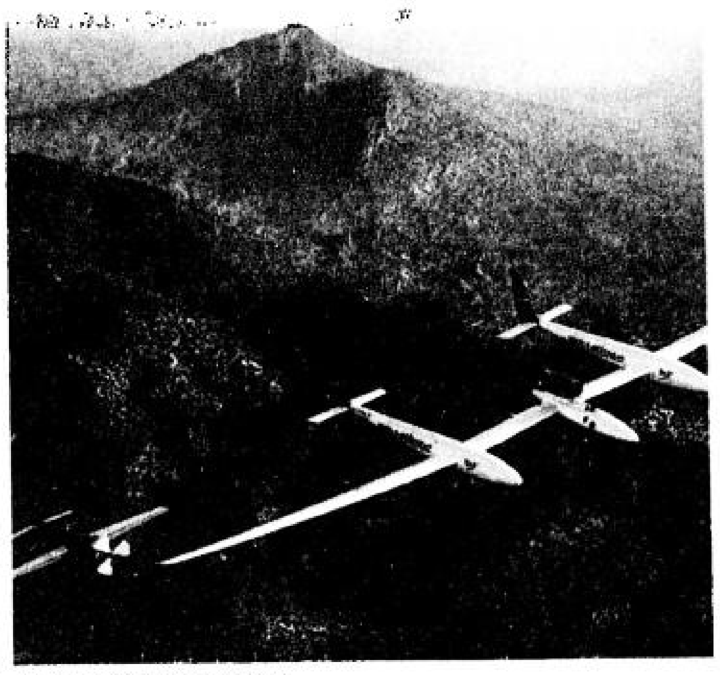
Bird flu has now spread to 32 of Vietnam's 64 cities and provinces and more than one million poultry have been destroyed since the start of the year.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health said the disease will be present for several years in the countries hit last year.

"Avian influenza is an ongoing emergency disease that spreads across borders," they said in a joint statement.

"The international community has to realize that some poor countries in Asia living with the bird flu virus must receive more support..." *AFP*

MITSUBISHI
DIGITAL
gives you the power to . . .
do MORE than
JUST ORDINARY PRINTS
GO DIGITAL with just P720,000*.
AVAIL OF OUR EASY
INSTALLMENT PLAN
PLUS, FREE TRIP TO JAPAN!
* Subject for approval
Visit us at MITSUBISHI BOOTH, PHOTOWORLD 2005, Activity Area, Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati on February 3-8, 2005
Distributed by: SOLID TRIANGLE SALES CORPORATION
2702 One San Miguel Avenue Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 633-9131, 634-5791,6329559 and 637-4348 to 50


AVIATOR'S DREAM
The Global Flyer aircraft is shown in this file photo over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Steve Fossett is expected to make the first solo non-stop flight around the world on Feb. 8 from Salina Municipal Airport in Kansas in the United States. The aircraft was designed by aviation legend Burt Rutan and built by Scaled Composites.
REUTERS

Pregnant workers in Britain face sexual discrimination

LONDON—Around 30,000 working women in Britain are fired, made redundant or leave their jobs every year because of pregnancy discrimination, an official report said Wednesday.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, the government agency that tackles sex discrimination, said 441,000 women per year worked while pregnant. Around half said they had suffered some form of discrimination because of their pregnancy, its research showed.

One in five said they had lost out financially and one in 20 disclosed they were put under pressure to hand in their notice when they announced they were expecting a baby.

Women were being denied promotion, bonuses and training and were facing verbal abuse just for being pregnant, according to the EOC report.

The agency urged ministers to give every pregnant woman a written statement of maternity rights and employer responsibilities.

"Women should not be penalized simply for being pregnant. The impact on women, their partners and families, and on the health of their baby can be disastrous," said EOC chair Julie Mellor.

The commission also said the government should give bosses a right to request that employees indicate their planned return date much earlier during maternity leave.

"Although some employers knowingly flout the law, many businesses do face genuine challenges in managing pregnancy and simply don't know what their responsibilities are or what help is available to them," Mellor said. *AP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sudan gov't, rebels slam UN report

KHARTOUM—Both Sudan's government and Darfur rebels criticized a UN report which accused Khartoum and allied militias of atrocities in the country's western region but stopped short of calling the violence genocide.

The UN report, released on Monday, recommended unnamed government officials and militia leaders be referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for widespread and systematic abuses, which may constitute crimes against humanity.

Khartoum officials said the report was unfair, emotional and had reached some incorrect conclusions. The two main rebel groups said the report was mistaken and investigators did not visit the worst areas of fighting where mass graves are hidden.

"We are going to show that there are some claims which are false and there are some misreadings of some facts in some situations—therefore as it stands now (the report) is not fair to Sudan," the head of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) Ibrahim Ahmed Omar said in Khartoum on Tuesday.

Omar welcomed the fact that the report did not agree with the US assertion that there was genocide in Darfur, where tens of thousands have been killed during a two-year-old uprising. Khartoum will present its comments on the report to the UN Security Council by the end of the week.

Justice Minister Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin said the excessive media coverage and almost continuous visits by dignitaries had influenced the commission.

"This made it an emotional rather than realistic investigation," he said. *Reuters*

Belgium, Spain arrest bombing suspects

BRUSSELS/MADRID—Belgian authorities arrested a man on Tuesday suspected of claiming responsibility for the Madrid train bombings in the name of al-Qaida while Spain detained a family also suspected of links to the attacks.

Moroccan-born Youssef Belhadj was arrested in Brussels on Tuesday evening, the Belgian state prosecutor's office told national news agency Belga.

"He is under a European arrest warrant issued by the Spanish authorities in connection with the Madrid bombing," Lieve Pellens of the Belgian prosecutor's office was quoted as saying.

Spanish police sources confirmed Belhadj, 28, had been detained in Belgium.

He was arrested hours after Spain's interior ministry announced that a Spanish court had issued an international warrant for his arrest.

The investigation of the March 11 blasts had turned up information suggesting that Belhadj could be Abu Dujan, a purported spokesperson for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida in Europe who claimed responsibility for the March 11 bombings in a videotape found days after the attacks.

Abu Dujan said on the tape that the attacks on four commuter trains, which killed 191 people, were in retaliation for the then Spanish government's cooperation with US President George W. Bush, particularly citing Spanish involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The tape was released hours before Spaniards went to the polls in a general election and ousted the pro-US Popular Party, electing instead Socialist leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero who promptly pulled Spanish troops out of Iraq.

Belhadj, who Spain wants extradited, was born in Morocco but currently lives in Belgium, where he was arrested last March but then released.

Earlier, police in Spain arrested four members of the Moroccan-born Moussaten family on suspicion of links to the Madrid train bombings and a militant Islamic group, the interior ministry said.

Twenty-year-old half brothers Brahim and Mohamed, their father Allal and Mohamed's 42-year-old mother Safia Belhadj were detained in the Madrid suburb of Leganes, it said.

Belhadj had unspecified links to the Moussaten family, the statement said. *Reuters*

Parliament rejects Basque autonomy plan

MADRID—Parliament on Tuesday overwhelmingly rejected a Basque plan for "shared sovereignty" between that part of northern Spain and the country as a whole.

The vote was 313-29 with two abstentions. It capped nearly eight hours of speeches.

Defeat was assured by the opposition of the ruling Socialists and the main opposition Popular Party.

"The result of the vote on this proposal is known beforehand since the (political) groups have expressed themselves with sufficient clarity," Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said. "The proposal will not succeed."

Basque regional president Juan Jose Ibarretxe doggedly called for dialogue and negotiation on his plan, endorsed Dec. 30 by his regional legislature, that ostensibly would give more political autonomy to the prosperous, three-province region below the Pyrenees mountains and southwest France.

"I sincerely believe there exists a solution... common ground," he said, to resolve what is perhaps Spain's biggest political impasse: the demands of several regions for more autonomy. The Basque one is complicated by killings and bombings by the armed separatist group ETA, blamed for more than 800 deaths since the late 1960s.

His plan proposed that the region would have its own court system and send delegates to international bodies such as the European Union. Ibarretxe also is committed to hold a Basque referendum—which the national government opposes—on whether his constituents want a new relationship with Spain.

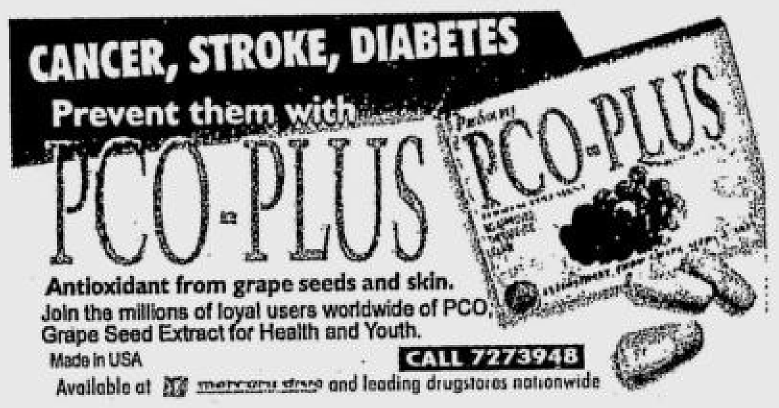
But Spain's two main parties concluded the Ibarretxe proposal is unconstitutional, attempts to disenfranchise Basques who prefer to remain Spaniards, and is a subterfuge aiming at independence, not merely more autonomy.

The real purpose is to "start a gradual and irreversible process of separating the Basque country from Spain," the Socialists' spokesperson in Parliament, Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, said.

Tuesday's hearing wasn't really a debate; rather, a collection of speeches. Some were riveting and politicians clearly were speaking to their constituents as proceedings were broadcast live nationwide on radio and cable TV.

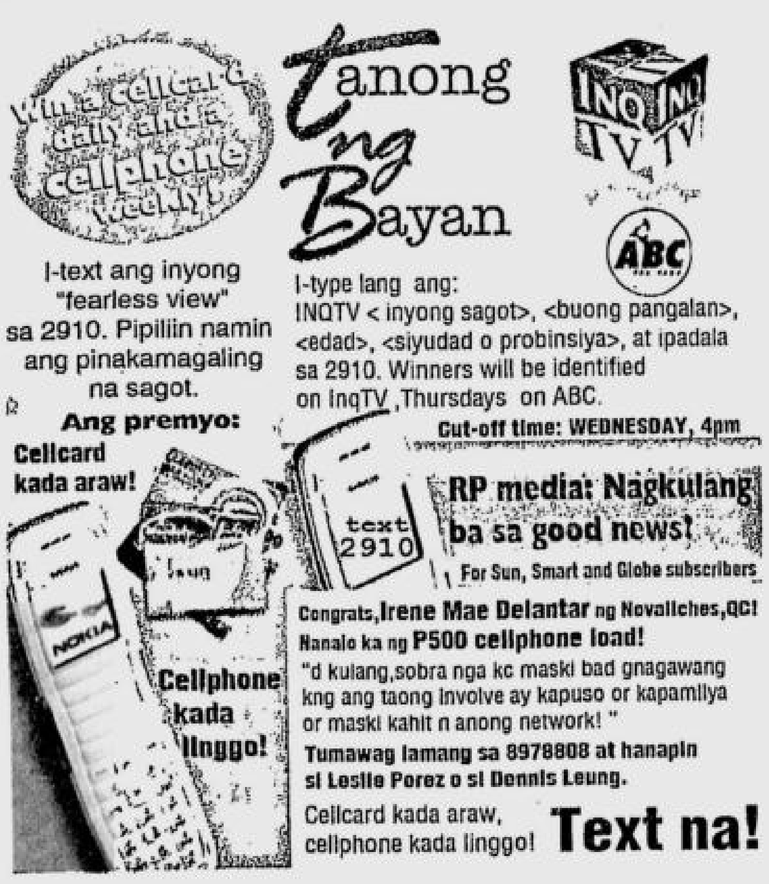
Smaller parties sided with Ibarretxe's passionate defense of Basque culture, language, history and identity, though falling short of endorsing his actual plan. He didn't really present it, either. Instead, he talked more generally about Basque right to self-determination, and the probable rejection by Parliament. *AP*

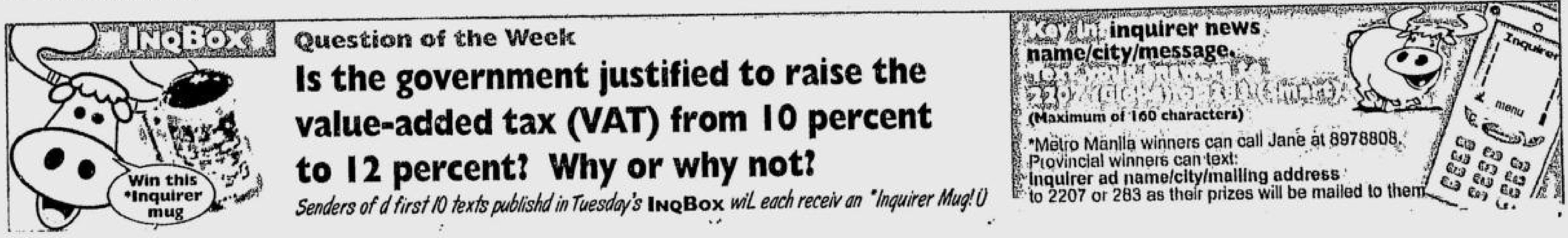
A Must In Every Business!
Our Cleaning Appliances Continue To Be No. 1 In The Market!
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Lavamatic 11 w/extractor
Boston w/extractor
Nevada 429 2400 watts
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Exclusively Distributed By
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE:1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709


CANCER, STROKE, DIABETES
Prevent them with
PCO-PLUS
Antioxidant from grape seeds and skin.
Join the millions of loyal users worldwide of PCO, Grape Seed Extract for Health and Youth.
Made in USA
CALL 7273948
Available at mercury drug and leading drugstores nationwide

CITYLAND
2003 LEADING CONDO DEVELOPER
Presidential Awardee
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWERS I &II
Few units left
Construction in full swing
Dela Rosa St.,
Pio Del Pilar, Makati City
Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium for as low as
P11,398/mo.
HLURB License to Sell#04867
IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE
P5,528/mo.
HLURB License to Sell#08177
*812-2222 *243-6565 *818-8888 *241-1894 *892-6150
*(0919)310-8553 www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

It's back!
Our lowest balance transfer rate ever, at 0.88% add-on interest per month!
Easy Transfer does it!
ShopMore
BDO
5125 7101 9977 1122
VALID DATES MONTH/YEAR MONTH/YEAR 08/04 08/06
RINA Z GONZALES
FOUNDING MEMBER
MasterCard
Also available
FREE Membership Fee for the First Year!
Get one of the best deals, and SAVE as much as 50% on interest charges when you transfer your other credit card balances to BDO Shop More MasterCard!
It's About Bigger Savings!
Why pay more when you can get the lowest monthly add-on interest at 0.88% by simply transferring your other credit card balances?
It's That Easy!
Just present your latest credit card billing statement with proof of latest payment to any BDO Shop More booth at selected SM Department Stores or any BDO branch. Minimum transferable amount is PHP5,000.
Apply NOW!
See flyers for more details, or call:
631-8000 (within Metro Manila) or
1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-free).
Hurry! Offer good from February 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005 only.
BDO Credit Cards
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0451, Series of 2005.


Win a cellcard daily and a cellphone weekly!
Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
ABC
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot.
I-type lang ang:
INQTV < inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <edad>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, at ipadala sa 2910. Winners will be identified on InqTV ,Thursdays on ABC.
Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 4pm
Ang premyo:
Cellcard kada araw!
Cellphone kada linggo!
text 2910
RP media: Nagkulang ba sa good news?
For Sun, Smart and Globe subscribers
Congrats, Irene Mae Delantar ng Novaliches, QC! Nanalo ka ng P500 cellphone load!
"d kulang,sobra nga kc maski bad gnagawang kng ang taong involve ay kapuso or kapamilya or maski kahit n anong network! "
Tumawag lamang sa 8978808 at hanapin si Leslie Perez o si Dennis Leung.
Cellcard kada araw, cellphone kada linggo! Text na!


INQBOX
Win this *Inquirer mug
Question of the Week
Is the government justified to raise the value-added tax (VAT) from 10 percent to 12 percent? Why or why not?
Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! 0
Key in: inquirer news name/city/message.
[illegible]
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
Inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 57

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
• 100% soy ink •

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Chainsaw massacre

EDITORIAL

FROM THE REACTION of some provincial governors, it seems they think Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is engaging in a chainsaw massacre, maligning their reputations by calling them illegal loggers. Bukidnon Gov. Jose Maria Zubiri reacted in a way familiar to most people: "Has she lost her mind?" He then went: "I strongly condemn all these baseless, malicious and irresponsible accusations designed to malign me and my family."

Zubiri is just one of five governors in Northern Mindanao who have branded Santiago's accusations as false and baseless. The same applies to other local officials in other parts of the country, who were also mentioned in a privilege speech the senator delivered Monday. Santiago identified Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo of Aurora, Ramoncito P. Ong and Edgardo Ong of the same province, Gov. Wilfrido Enverga of Quezon and Gov. Tomas Joson III of Nueva Ecija as responsible for the illegal logging in the provinces in Central Luzon. Reactions in Luzon were more muted, such as Sen. Edgardo Angara's: "In fairness to Miriam, she made a reservation that she only included my sister under the thesis that under the Local Government Code, it's the local executive who should take care of the forest. That's the only connection why my sister, Bella, was included on the list."

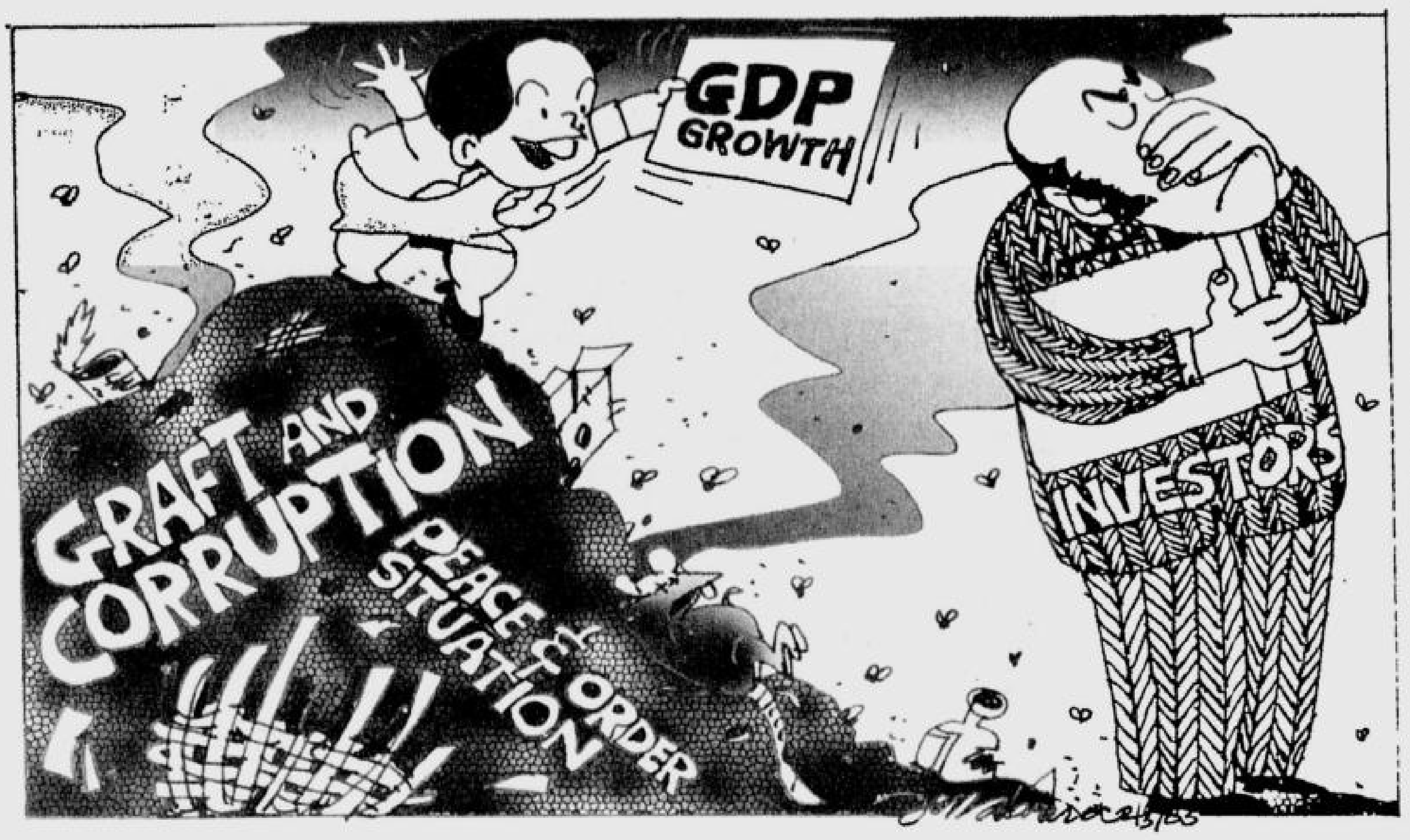
There is no denying that some of Santiago's statements in her explosive privilege speech makes sense, particularly her assertion that illegal loggers are "often major campaign contributors, thus precipitating the blindness of these officials to what is going on right under their noses." There is no denying, either, that Santiago has no equal in government when it comes to using the English language for quotable and sensational purposes. But what remains to be seen is whether she has decided to adopt a wide-sweeping but factually careless approach or whether her exposé is really substantiated by the facts.

After the accusations, indeed, must come the facts, although of course it would have been better to substantiate allegations with iron-clad facts. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, on the same day Santiago made her speech, asked the senator for a list of big-time illegal loggers as well government officials protecting them. In his letter, Gonzalez asked for specifics with regard to allegations of illegal logging in 25 provinces covered by the senator's privilege speech. "May I request your office to furnish us whatever evidentiary documents you have in your possession to enable us to initiate an immediate investigation on the matter and if evidence so warrants, prosecute them in court," he wrote.

It is too early to tell whether Santiago is blowing a smokescreen to take attention away from her nephew, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, or adopting environmentalism as a cause. After all, the secretary has been on the hot seat over the effects of logging, despite the relatively short time he has been at the job. His tiff with Sen. Jamby Madrigal has put the DENR on the defensive, and seems to have triggered some kind of maternal instinct on the part of Santiago. But then again, to be fair, Santiago has always been quick to denounce the amassing of fortunes at the public's expense, and one of the oldest ways of making illegal fortunes is through logging.

It is definitely helpful that Santiago has chosen to bombard local officials with accusations. Santiago is careful yet cunning enough to exact the maximum damage to people's egos without actually breaking the law (on libel or anything else). While governors like Zubiri might take offense at her remarks, they at least have a chance to explain themselves. The truth is, people in the provinces know just who exactly are into logging and who are not; however, the same culture of fear that seeks to silence media people also operates to smother the free exchange of information on logging activities in the provinces.

At the very least, Santiago's speech has called attention to the environmental crisis threatening not just Luzon, but the Visayas and Mindanao, and not just a few provinces, but many. She has also managed to highlight the fact that while the national government has been found wanting in environmental protection, local governments must also take part of the blame for the denudation of our forests and the death and destruction it has brought down on the Filipino people.



Tracking changing stories

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

HAS this country become a media treadmill? And does it straight-jacket us into mechanically inserting new data, over dated figures, within stale stories with dusted-off headlines?

That bone-weary question arises when you scan new findings, whether in population, forests, nutrition, schools, even gunning down of journalists. "Is there anything new under the sun?" a burnt-out Ecclesiastes asked in 300 BC.

At a Philippine Press Institute meeting, for example, former Health Undersecretary Mario Taguiwalo lucidly summarized impacts from a population that mushroomed from 43 million in 1975 to roughly 83 million today.

"Our national papers published in the mid-1960s the first reports on population surges," recalled the demographer sitting next to me, Mercedes Concepcion, UP Population Institute's founding director. "You wrote that series. Remember?"

Yes, but what changed since then? you asked as Taguiwalo displayed slide number 16. It was on skewed income distribution.

In 1961, the upper half of Filipinos nailed roughly 82 centavos out of every peso. The poorer half made do with 17 centavos—crumbs really. By the year 2000, their share of crumbs barely budged. The better off had a *kosing* shaved off their 82 centavos. And the poor had a *kosing* tacked to their 17 centavos.

But the arithmetic shifted. In 1961, there were 27 million of the poor. By the 21st century's start, that had swollen to 76 million. "The population issue is about impoverished people," Taguiwalo said.

It's about "expanding their choices to lead the lives they value," as the UN's Human Development Report notes. But with 17 centavos, what choices do our poor have?

They have no tiaras, like Imelda. Nor can they fly barbers in business class to Hong Kong. Erap did that when he needed a trim. That disparity makes our TB incidence inevitable: 219 for every 100,000 citizens. Compare that to 26 for Thais, 8 for Mexicans.

Of course, numbers "alone cannot explain poverty." In their follow-up paper on the fiscal crisis, UP professors underscore that "bad governance, high wealth and income inequality, weak economic growth" stoke penury.

Thus, journalists must "track a story in real time," CNN's Frank Cesno says. "The story changes out from under you, and you've got to ride the roller-coaster."

So, did you track your stories on the first protests in the 1960s on spreading forest devastation? asked Metro Post editor Irma Faith Pal at a Silliman seminar. "Your hair is now grey," she noted.

The late Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and forester Nicolas Lansigan, we wrote then, hit the alarm button, saying the logging frenzy couldn't be sustained. Clear-cutting would chainsaw into resource base itself. Forest cover, then, was a still-manageable 39 percent of the total area. We strutted among the four prima donnas of world timber exporters.

Today, the country is a wood pauper. We buy logs from Sabah or New Zealand, a country that nurtured tree plantations. Forest cover has been whittled down to barely 17 percent. Yet, remaining stands in the Sierra Madre and remote parts of Mindanao are being ravaged.

That nationwide pattern of plunder beggared thousands. It wrecked a world-class industry. Unwittingly, we provided a case study on how not to handle a natural resource, the Food and Agriculture Organization notes. Worse, it handed denuded deserts on to future generations.

Journalists must track these basic changes. However, "the market has no alarm that sounds when a biological system's carrying capacity is breached," Worldwatch Institute cautions. The real costs for remedial policies, long postponed, appear belatedly in lethal flash floods, as in Aurora, Quezon, Ormoc and Caraga.

The treadmill prevails in media. In Tagum, the 60th assault on a journalist, since 1986, has been reported. Yet, it was 26 in 1999 and rose to 32 by the year 2000. "Today, the body count is 56," Cebu's Press Freedom Week editorial noted in 2003.

Not a killer has been convicted. The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists blames "a culture of violence"—often condoned by officials—for making the Philippines, after Iraq, the world's deadliest place for media workers. Malacañang bristles at the charge of nurturing impunity. O.K. How about impotence?

Take schools. In 1996, we commented on the tail-ender record notched by Filipino students in the first International Mathematics and Science Tests. Today, Education Secretary Florencio Abad is confronted by the dusted off headlines: failure in the fourth IMST in 2004. And the Department of Public Works still spends P600,000 on a schoolhouse which the Chinese Federation of Commerce builds and donates for P300,000.

"Treadmill stories" are often about issues that persist over the long haul. But we in the press find the demand for "something new" bearing down relentlessly. It's difficult to stave off that pressure by greater stress on reporting of significance. But we must try. As the Nobel Laureate Archbishop Romero said, "We are prophets of a future not our own."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Grammatical deaths

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT the book last year from a friend, Vic Magdaraog, who sent it to me to help me recuperate from an operation. He thought I was still confined at St. Luke's after my doctor, and friend, Jiji Sison, took out my gall bladder. I wasn't. I was there for only three nights, I was anxious to get home, and did. But the book did help in my swift recovery at home, though it caused me no small amount of discomfiture chuckling out loud while the wound underneath my ribs, hidden by the sewn skin in that part of my body, healed.

The book is Lynne Truss' "Eats, Shoots & Leaves," which has the distinction of being the first book on punctuation to become a runaway bestseller in the British charts. Its success has little to do with British eccentricity—unless the eccentricity lies in their still reading books, a dying art across the globe—the book is just, well, delightful; to use a British word. It amuses while it enlightens.

The title comes from this story: "A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air. 'Why?' asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes toward the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder. 'I'm a panda,' he says, at the door. 'Look it up.' The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

"Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

Strangely enough, some people I've shown this book to, or told the story to with the appropriate pauses, couldn't get the joke. I should have known that in a country that doesn't particularly care for grammar, and in an age that doesn't particularly pay heed to punctuation, it's not unusual for its point to be lost. I myself won't bother to explain it. Go figure.

Punctuation is important, Truss says, and she spends the rest of her book showing why in often hilarious ways. One of the things she upbraids is the title of the movie, "Two Weeks Notice." It's a title that can truly raise the hackles not just of sub-editors or copyreaders but of anyone professing to be literate. Or don't you notice anything wrong with it? The correct phrase of course is "Two Weeks' Notice"—apostrophe after "weeks." You wonder why none of its stars (Sandra Bullock, Hugh Grant) director (Marc Lawrence, also its writer), and staff from Warner Bros ever noticed the atrocity. The title, splashed on posters of the movie, went on to conquer the world.

Punctuation, Truss quotes a newspaper as saying, "is a courtesy designed to help readers to understand a story without stumbling." It's good manners, it's considerateness. If you don't punctuate your statements right, you make readers work harder. Or worse, you give them the wrong meanings. As this example shows: "A woman, without her man, is nothing." When you probably mean: "A woman: without her, man is nothing."

My sympathies are entirely with Truss not only because I edit or copy-read publications to supplement income and have seen firsthand the dramatic plunge in grammatical, not to speak of punctuation-al, IQ in these parts. I sympathize with her because I do know that these times are not hospitable to displays of this intelligence or politeness. Truss mentions the ravages on language brought about by the Internet, specifically the e-mail, and text-message sending via the cellular phone. I agree. That, too, I've seen firsthand: the dumbing of communication brought about by text messaging in particular.

I was one of those who resisted the cellular phone for a time, but gave in eventually. And discovered its many wonders in time. Truly, it does make it easier to meet—it's especially useful for me since I take the MRT to Makati; I just refuse to drive all the way there. I was about to say it makes it easier as well to keep track of your kids but don't you notice that your kids'—notably the teenage variety's—cell phones always experience low bat whenever you're inquiring into their whereabouts at odd hours? But that's another story.

But text messaging has its drawbacks, for me too in particular. Which is that it has been encroaching into my writing, and threatening to overrun it. I used to write straight sentences, with the correct spelling and punctuation, in my text messages. But I've since found out that that takes time (I won't win any contest in rapid "texting") and occupies several pages. As with owning a cellular phone, I've given in to expedience too and begun "texting" the conventional way, which is in open defiance of grammatical convention.

I haven't gotten as far as writing "ba2", which was how our teenager made life miserable for me one time I was supposed to meet him in a building—it turned out his cryptic message meant "*baba*," or downstairs; I thought it was the name of a shop—but I have gotten as far as removing all vestiges of articles ("the" and "a" or "an"), obliterating vowels in words, erasing capital letters, and producing slabs of text without—my monumental apologies to Ms Truss—commas and periods. Indeed, on the whole talking like Johnny Weissmuller—"Me Tarzan, you Jane," or in "tex tese," "m trzn u jan"). I know it's horrible, and produces the nastier effect of making you tone deaf. Words are about rhythm and beat and cadence too, and those things evaporate in text messages.

I'm really hoping they get around to making cell phones, and PC's (note the apostrophe after "C"), receptive to verbal commands so we can stop using the keyboard to inflict more torture on language. Meanwhile, I guess I'll just have to sign up with the resistance Truss offers to lead to preserve the beauty, or integrity, of one of humankind's noblest inventions.

Till then, c u.

Thoughts for the Mining Summit

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE LONG-AWAITED momentum for economic recovery may have begun, highlighted by the rebound of the peso against the dollar, which, in turn, appears to buoy the stockmarket like it hasn't performed in about five years. This, in turn, seems to be triggered by the 6 percent growth in GDP, the decision of the world's largest pension fund CalPers to remain invested in the Philippine market and the passage by Congress of two revenue measures to help correct the budget deficit. Passage of the bill increasing the value-added tax, which is now pending in the Senate, will sustain that forward surge. We pray that the senators will pass what they claim to be "a better version" than the House's, *para patuloy na ang* recovery. But no doubt, what helped set the lucky chain of economic and financial developments on what we hope is the inexorable leap forward was the Supreme Court reversal last December of its earlier ruling declaring the 1995 Mining Act unconstitutional.

* * *

Last December the Court, in a 10-4-1 decision penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, ruled that large-scale development of our mineral resources is legal and "does not contravene the Constitution." The buzzword was "large-scale development," for at this point such huge mining ventures appear to be off limits to local capitalists (each large-scale venture is said to require at least P1 billion in investment). The other day, the Court, in another 10-4-1 decision, threw out the motion for reconsideration filed by an ethnic tribe and 50 individuals, led by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada.

* * *

Doubtless directly triggered by the SC decision is the "Mining Summit" that opened yesterday afternoon in Manila. It's an indication of the tremendous interest that the opening of RP's mining industry has attracted that over 200 foreign investors have arrived for the summit from China, Canada, the US and Australia, among other places. The government is eager to show these investors the P6 billion worth of mines that are ready for development in the next six years.

* * *

Fear has been raised by some critics that this invitation to invest in our minerals won't bring in dollars since the investors would merely rely on the local capital market. The government, however, eager to capitalize on increased world demand, is expected to dispel that fear by demanding that the investors plunk down their capital on infrastructure and immediate employment, even though a mining venture is said to have a long-term gestation period.

* * *

There's also the fear that RP would be left holding the bag after the foreign-owned mining firms remit their earnings to their country of origin. This point was debated extensively in the Court, with the four dissenters stressing that the foreigners should remit 60 percent of the mining revenues to the Philippine government. But the majority argued that while this is all very nice, there is no law or constitutional provision to this effect. Thus, argued the majority, the country has to rely on the President who is authorized under Article XII of the Constitution ("National Economy and Patrimony") to enter into agreements with foreign-owned corporations for "large scale exploration, development, and utilization of minerals… according to the general terms and conditions provided by law, based on real contributions to the economic growth and general welfare of the country."

* * *

The law referred to in this case is the 1995 Mining Law, which wisely did not limit the terms of profit-sharing, but instead gave the President enough authority to determine the financial benefits to be gained as well as the necessary safeguards to be implemented. During their deliberations on the case, the justices debated at length on the determination of the share of the government from, among other things, taxes, permits, licenses, etc. The minority zeroed in on taxes which they did not deem satisfactory, but the majority noted precisely the wide leeway in the phrase "among other things," based on formulations of the DENR to implement the Mining Act. The justices acknowledged that they were not technically equipped to determine the precise formula for sharing, and that even the Mining Act did not want to define it. But the justices made a veiled warning that if the sharing did not turn out to be just and equitable, the court would not hesitate to intervene.

* * *

Clearly, what the executive and legislative branches have to do is to allay the fears of some Filipinos that the government might sell our national patrimony cheap to the foreigners. The key word is to balance all interests. As Panganiban wrote in the majority decision, "the Constitution should be read in broad life-giving strokes; it should not be used to strangulate economic growth or to serve narrow, parochial interest." As the justices saw it, beneath the bowels of RP's territory lies perhaps one-fifth of the earth's precious minerals; these could rescue our people from the bondage of too prolonged poverty, but unless they are mined, they remain useless as weapons against poverty. But mining involves billions of pesos which local capitalists don't have.

* * *

But the equally valid question is, how do we ensure a just sharing of these fruits of the earth among the foreign investors and the real owners, the people, for whom the state holds those minerals in trust? The question should be especially raised with the "indigenous cultural communities" in mind, as the Constitution seeks to protect their rights to their ancestral lands in Sec. 5 of Art. XII. Development of the minerals inevitably will displace some indigenous communities.

Moreover, how do we ensure the protection of the environment for future generations?

At the Mining Summit, all these are valid concerns ought to be articulated and discussed.

SWS corrects my reporting error

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

MEA maxima culpa.

I missed out on two words—a pronoun and a preposition—and this made a world of a difference. The words were "it" and "to." Because I missed those (my eyes did not coordinate with my brain), I wrote a sentence that turned one of the Social Weather Stations' 2004 survey findings upside down.

This had to happen in the second to the last sentence of a longish news article, that is, when I was about to put a bullet on the article and write "30." I hope not many readers got to that end part on the jump page. How I wish I had written something shorter and stopped at the usual 5,000 characters. Then the last two sentences would not have been written and live forever in the digital archives of the universe. Oh, but the right and good stuff, too, will live forever.

Here is SWS president Mahar Mangahas' letter to the editor:

"Subject: PDI Error in Claiming that Filipinos Prefer Authoritarian Government

"In the PDI issue of Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005, the article by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo 'Pinoys make do with less' based on the SWS Survey Review of 2004 which I presented on Jan 26th at AIM, has a very serious error in claiming that SWS 'said most preferred a more authoritarian government.' What the presentation actually said (attached slide 61) is that "Though only 40 percent are satisfied with how democracy works, most Filipinos prefer it to authoritarianism…" This was followed by a slide (attached Slide 62) with the clear labels: '57 percent prefer democracy,' and '24 percent prefer authoritarian government.'

"I trust you would agree that the issue of public preference between democracy and authoritarianism is of such great importance that for a newspaper to report the very opposite of what an opinion poll found is a very serious error indeed, and deserving of a very prompt and prominent correction."

SWS presented a whole year's findings in 69 slides that showed dazzling colored graphs, statistics and summaries. These covered the elections, foreign relations, personal quality of life, governance, the Erap factor, corruption, democracy and general morale. The presentation was a comprehensive recap of what had been presented last year. It also went back 20 years. How has this nation progressed, what have we become?

SWS, a non-profit, non-government institution, is 20 years old, by the way.

I am not known to be a careless reporter, irresponsible feature writer or abusive columnist. So what happened? Did my mind play tricks on me?

I was myself baffled that most Filipinos would prefer an authoritarian government, for that is what my mind wrongly grasped. In fact, that is what I wrote, and mercifully, almost as a footnote.

Slide 61, on which I based my erroneous sentence and which Mangahas partially quoted in his letter, reads: "Though only 40 percent are satisfied with how democracy works, most Filipinos prefer it to authoritarianism—and are again keeping a watchful eye on the loyalty of the military. They think democracy worked better a decade ago, and that in the next decade will recover partially."

Note the two highlighted words that blipped in my brain. The second sentence was the gremlin. I thought, people thought democracy worked better a decade ago but it does not work now. That it will work better in the next decade but it does not now. And so I wrote "(SWS) said most preferred a more authoritarian government, and that they were keeping a watchful eye on the loyalty of the military." Or so, I thought.

"A more authoritarian government"—that was what I wrote, not "authoritarianism." But I don't blame the copy editor for putting "authoritarianism" as subtitle for my last three sentences.

Now, postmortem, as I examine my SWS hard copy, I think I should have, while writing, referred to Slide 62, no matter how microscopic its numbers and words, that showed that—hear ye, everyone—57 percent in fact prefer democracy, while 40 percent are satisfied and 24 percent prefer authoritarian government.

It was slide 64 on my hard copy that caught my attention. It says "Public anxiety about the loyalty of the AFP is back at the high levels of 1990-91." During Mangahas' presentation I scribbled "worry?" Was this really anxiety? I thought.

The test statement for the respondents was: "Ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas o AFP ay tapat at masunurin sa gobyernong pinamumunuan ni Pang. (Aquino\Ramos\Estrada\Macapagal-Arroyo)." (The Armed Forces of the Philippines is loyal and obedient to the government headed by…) Did the dive in the "agree" responses and the rise in the "disagree" responses (the line graphs almost meet somewhere near 30 percent) for the Arroyo term necessarily mean anxiety? Might there be respondents who in fact prefer this scenario or simply don't care?

I wanted to bring this up during the forum but I thought I'd rather listen. There were many facts and figures to absorb and I was trying to think of a good story angle. Surveys are high and dry, so how to bring this down to ground level?

I decided on how the Pinoy made do with less in 2004. I relegated the issue of democracy (just for now!) minus statistics to the second to the last sentence as it had been tackled so often. Well, it struck back as if saying, "*Daing* (the fish, the lamentations) and democracy could go together."

I hope this lapse on my part would not be used by dark forces that threaten democracy.

* * *

Synchronicity? Tomorrow I attend the 2nd Philippine Summit of the News Media. It is dubbed "Media Nation 2: Owning Up." Sponsored by the INQUIRER, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and other media institutions.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

The American art of war

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY of the destruction of Manila at the end of World War II brings to mind the Philippine experience with the American way of waging war. Writing in "The Battle for Manila," John Plimlott, Duncan Anderson and Richard Connaughton put together a fascinating analysis of the American tactics that led to the destruction of our capital.

"According to the American Field Manual that dealt with urban fighting (FM 31-50, revised in 1944) the capture of a defended city required a great deal of forward planning. As ground forces advanced toward the city, commanders were expected to produce an 'estimate' of the situation facing them, integral parts of which would comprise detailed descriptions of the area and of the enemy dispositions. Once the attack began, the primary aim would be to seize key locations, partly to deny them to the enemy, partly to give the attackers positions from which to observe defenses and call in supporting artillery or air strikes. Then, and only then, would the infantry, backed by armor and artillery, push into the city, driving toward observed enemy strong points that would be softened up beforehand. Enemy defenses could be bypassed, but only if follow-on units were available to deal with them before their occupants mounted counterattacks. The key to success was seen as the creation and maintenance of momentum, denying the enemy any opportunity to consolidate.

"One overriding lesson was learned early on—in any attack on a defended building, the key was to go in firing with every weapon available. The alternative was just to stand off and allow the artillery to demolish the structure brick by brick, burying the Japanese in the ruins.

"These techniques, shown in their most effective form during the attacks on Intramuros and the government buildings in late February [1945], inevitably became the new doctrine of urban fighting, refining many of the details in FM 31-50. In the aftermath of the Manila battle, XIV Corps compiled a detailed report on their experiences, principally to ensure that any points of value in the anticipated attacks on Japanese cities were widely disseminated. In the event, those attacks did not take place, although the experience of Manila was not forgotten. When the Americans found themselves involved in urban fighting in Vietnam—not least in the aftermath of the 1968 Tet Offensive—many of the techniques employed would not have been unfamiliar to veterans of Manila. Artillery and tank fire was used to prepare the way for infantry attacks, producing widespread devastation and civilian casualties; buildings were cleared using grenades, flamethrowers and explosives. The only difference was that, in 1968, there were few restrictions on the use of airpower, particularly helicopter gunships. American losses, although severe, were minimized by substituting technology for manpower wherever possible; little remorse was shown when ancient towns and urban areas were razed. As an unnamed American major reportedly said to journalist Peter Arnett as they surveyed the ruins of Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta in February 1968, 'It became necessary to destroy the town to save it.' It was a sentiment that many Filipino survivors of Manila would have found chillingly familiar."

"The Battle for Manila" also quotes an artillery officer named General Beightler who had this to say about the city's destruction: "We used these shells and plastered the Walled City until it was a mess. It fell to us with ease we never expected. We made a churned-up pile of dust and scrap out of the imposing, classic government buildings. Our bombers have done some pretty fine alteration work on the appearance of Berlin and Tokyo. Just the same, I wish they could see what we did with our little artillery on the Jap strongholds of Manila."

Beightler was referring, with a great deal of exaggeration and American military braggadocio, to the means his artillerymen found to defeat the Japanese holed up in Intramuros and its environs. Forbidden by Gen. Douglas MacArthur from using aircraft, the American forces systematically leveled the government area of Manila.

Filipinos have had five experiences when it comes to American armed forces and the way they wage war: as enemies during the Filipino-American War; as allies during the beginning of World War II when we suffered common defeat in Bataan and Corregidor; at the end of World War II as noncombatant spectators and victims, for the most part; in Korea, where, once more, under MacArthur, Filipino troops in the United Nations' forces faced defeat in the face; and in Vietnam, where Filipinos went as a token force but are still commemorated in a Saigon Museum as having participated in the torture of Vietcong guerrillas.

"The Battle for Manila" points to what seems to be an irredeemable American weakness. The authors further quote Beightler as saying, in a statement whose arrogance is chilling: "Although I know there was plenty of weeping and wailing from property owners who saw the buildings disappear in the blasts of 240mm shells, if I could have had those dive bombers too, I might have made the big rubble into little rubble. So much for Manila. It is a ruined city—unhealthy, depressing, poverty stricken. Let us thank God our cities have been spared such a state." That weakness is what the Greeks called hubris: the ability to win, and achieve glory, and yet forget, in the full flush of victory, the terrible toll paid by their friends.

Freedom indeed has a price.

Aching

YOUNG BLOOD

JR Eusebio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IF I didn't care, I wouldn't watch the news anymore. Doing so is torture. I am mortified by the sight of my countrymen suffering while I live without worry in a country of abundance, of pleasure. How could this happen to us? I always ask myself. What did we do wrong?

I don't want to blame anyone anymore. I know our government is a joke. But a lot of countries in the world have governments that are jokes, too. The difference is that these other countries seem to be staying afloat, while we are sinking deeper and deeper into poverty and despair.

An earthquake hit Niigata Prefecture here in Japan about two months ago. I watched the news. Instead of feeling like we had just been hit by disaster, I felt comforted. I felt comforted because I saw that things worked. Gymnasiums were turned into evacuation centers, and tatami mats were distributed so the evacuees didn't have to sleep on the cold floor. A local noodle maker served free soba to the locals. Helicopters took selected evacuees back for a quick look at their battered homes, where they were allowed to feed their cattle, assure their pets, and put the shaken family Buddhist altar back in order. Hired helicopters airlifted 700 sedated bulls and cows for the largest livestock raiser in the area. Not just tents, but temporary housing was put up for the homeless.

I felt assured—at least for a while.

Then early one morning on the Filipino Channel, I saw a news summary of what happened in the Philippines the week before. A typhoon had struck, leaving a wide swath of destruction in several provinces. The number of people reported to have died varied from one source to the next. Some said hundreds had been killed; others said the death toll was more than a thousand.

But numbers don't really affect you, unless you see what they represent. The typhoon caused landslides. Families were buried alive. And those who survived the disaster had to prepare themselves for some more blows, like starvation and the outbreak of diseases. The sight of the dead, the stench of the dead, the burial of loved ones—all spoke of hopelessness. In the morning, in the afternoon, at night, there was the feeling of hopelessness.

How did our country come to this? Whatever have we done in the past to deserve all the old, wrinkled faces we saw crying on television? The naked children with dirty faces, sitting on top of a pile of garbage? The men with dirty, leathery skin and sad looks in their eyes, like they've gone to battle and lost?

How?

Corrupt politicians are all over the world, so I don't believe that our officials should be blamed solely for everything that is happening in our country.

And we work, for crying out loud. Our graduates try to find jobs. Our children know how to make do with what's available. Maybe some are contented living like bums, but most struggle to improve their lot. Many live away from their families in foreign lands taking care of strangers so that they would earn decent incomes.

And we pray. The churches are packed on Sundays. Mosques come alive when our Muslim brothers pray. Children know about God. The elderly chant their Latin verses still, in front of altars.

We care. We love. We try.

We are people. And even we deserve a chance.

Seeing my country devastated has left me weak. I might be a thousand miles away, but I feel like I'm also knee-deep in mud, trying to find the answers amid the destruction. Crying out of a sense of helplessness and insignificance. Feeling numb and not knowing what to do next.

I am throwing away my sarcasm for now because this is serious. I am a Filipino, and I ache for my country. And even if it tortures me, I will still watch the news every day, because I don't want to miss it when it comes, if it will ever come: the day when they're going to show us something good.

JR Eusebio, 24, will be graduating in March from the Tokyo Visual Arts College where she is taking a course in photography.

Bad news

Joy E. Lapuz

"MEDIA is the right hand of anarchy," Dan Brown writes in "Angels and Demons."

Since I have been working for a news organization the past four years, I could not help but ponder how accurately it described Philippine media. And sadly, I have to agree with him.

Anarchy means lawlessness, political disorder or violence. Brown is saying that we in the media help sowing disorder.

What we see, hear and read in the news are about conflicts, differences, political bickering and intrigues. Perhaps, because such news are more exciting to report about. A victim slapping the suspect makes for an interesting video clip and is even called an exclusive story. News about corrupt government officials, gay military officials, the fiscal crisis, the peso devaluation and continuous price increases have been repeatedly reported, analyzed and debated ad nauseam. The faint stirring of a coup d'etat or the probability of violence in an election creates a big stir in every newsroom.

Once bad news erupt, expect sensational angles and controversial treatment.

Our executive producer always says that good news can take care of itself; it's the bad news that needs taking care of. But can't good news be given equal exposure as the bad?

Good news rarely land as banner stories. Most of the time, these are confined to the latter part of the newscast, when the person watching has already become sleepy or annoyed and has decided to turn off the set.

Because bad news are magnified, it is the country that suffers from the negative impression they create. Do you still wonder why suddenly all of us know someone who is either taking up nursing or a caregiver course? Thanks, but no thanks, to media.

I honestly don't think the situation in the Philippines is that desperate and hopeless, no matter how bad some or most of the news organizations may present it. It saddens me that with the powerful impact media has on the public, they opt to present stories of hopelessness and helplessness.

As a newswriter, I've written enough bad news and that's one reason why I have changed my mind about looking for greener pastures elsewhere. Perhaps, I will be able to make some good news here, for a change.

Joy E. Lapuz, 25, works as a TV newswriter for a television station.

An appeal for Tarongoy

WE, the undersigned Filipino organizations, institutions, churches and individuals, appeal anew to President Macapagal-Arroyo on behalf of our compatriot, fellow overseas Filipino worker Robert Theodore Tarongoy, who has been held hostage by Iraqi rebels since Nov. 1, 2004. His fate is primarily in the hands of the Arroyo administration.

Our appeal is very simple, based on humanitarian values: Withdraw support of our government for the US policy of waging unjust wars and occupying sovereign nations in the pursuit of its economic interests. Withdrawing the Philippine government's support for the US war of aggression is the first definitive step toward protecting Filipino citizens forced to work and reside abroad due to the chronic crises at home.

Filipino diplomats in Iraq can offer no definite news about OFW Tarongoy. The Iraqi rebels have demanded prisoner exchanges and a US$10 million ransom.

We know that the US war in Iraq has no moral justification. It was neither sanctioned by the United Nations nor was it given any blessing from the Church. Pope John Paul II and other Church leaders have opposed the unjust and immoral war waged by the United States on Iraq.

We cannot fathom the reasons that pushed GMA into supporting the US government's policy of war. If she values life, especially the lives of Filipinos abroad, she should immediately withdraw support for and stop the Philippines' active participation in the ongoing wars of aggression the United States is waging on Iraq and other peoples.

This is the only reasonable step to take in pursuing the safe release and repatriation of Tarongoy. It would also help in protecting other overseas Filipinos in the Middle East.

It is time for the President to listen to the voices of reason and compassion for Filipino migrants.

—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,
chair, Migrante Sectoral Party and Convenor, Coalition of the UNwilling with 364 signatories belonging to various organizations in Asia-Pacific countries

Malnutrition impacts on health, economy

IT is distressing to note that micronutrient malnutrition, or the deficiency of vitamins and minerals in the diet, has become widespread in our country.

As one of the pro bono doctors of the Caritas-supported charity medical clinic in Our Lady of Peace Parish at the Fourth Estate Subdivision, Parañaque City, I would say micronutrient malnutrition has turned into one of our more serious health concerns.

Our patients are children and mothers from the depressed areas around the Fourth Estate. Most of them suffer from ailments, of which malnutrition is one of the primary causes. These illnesses are debilitating, and sometimes fatal, but they are preventable with the right diet.

In the Fourth Estate—and I believe this is true elsewhere in our country—the three most prevalent forms of micronutrient malnutrition are deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron and iodine.

Lack of Vitamin A in the diet causes, among other ailments, night blindness and weaker immunity to diseases. Iron deficiency anemia leads to physical weakness, shorter attention span and reduced memory. And iodine deficiency disorder is the common cause of mental retardation and goiter. Deficiency in Vitamin A and iodine also retards child growth.

I understand that a recent survey, conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology, shows that the Vitamin A deficiency disorder, iron deficiency anemia, and iodine deficiency disorder have afflicted a large segment of our population, particularly children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Apart from physically weakening many Filipinos, the deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron and iodine have far-reaching economic consequences for our nation. Our health care expenditures go up, while our productivity is pulled down by a sickly and sluggish new generation.

Our Congress deserves commendation for enacting Republic Act 8976 or the Food Fortification Act, which took effect on Nov. 7, 2004. The law requires the fortification of staple food products, like rice, with iron, flour with Vitamin A and iron; oil with Vitamin A; and sugar with Vitamin A. This will go a long way in preventing diseases linked to micronutrient malnutrition.

—GRACIELA MACRINA M. ROSALES, MD, RN,
7 Bodoni St., Fourth Estate Subdivision
Parañaque City

Take credit rating with grain of salt

LET'S just take Standard & Poor's downgrade of our credit rating with a grain of salt. After all, salt is about the only commodity in the market which everybody can still afford these days. Besides, it's only a reflection of our—pardon the pun—poor standard of living.

Concerning the rising prices of commodities, particularly canned goods, I would like to contribute my ten cents' worth of opinion—whatever it will buy these days.

Why not substitute plastic or glass containers in place of expensive cans? They are cheaper and recyclable, too, and can also provide extra income for ordinary folks like yours truly.

One of my New Year's resolutions is to collect discarded gin bottles, which I could sell to buy me cigarettes, another bad habit which I "hope" to break this year if Lucio Tan continues to raise the price like everything else.

It seems there's no avoiding this tsunami of rising prices engulfing us all as if responding to an advertising call: "*Itaas Mo!*"

—MANUEL D. HIDALGO,
76 Balintawak St., Naga City

DOH's campaign on iodized salt

WITH DUE respect to the Department of Health, the news report "Iodine is why Junior can't read" (PDI, 01/21/05) should be taken with a grain of salt.

Until now, elementary science teachers keep telling their pupils to eat plenty of seafood because they are rich in iodine, which is needed for normal metabolism of the thyroid glands. That might even be left unsaid to Filipinos whose staple food is rice and fish. While iodine makes up only a small percentage of the Earth's crust, its known concentration is ample in underground brines and seawater. It simply defies logic that in a country of many thousand islands, where salt is chiefly produced from the evaporation of seawater, table salt still needs to be iodized.

Cretinism may be associated with impaired mental development—like many other child ailments, for that matter. Nonetheless, its more pronounced manifestations are principally physical: high birth weight, retarded growth, a large broad tongue, dry coarse hair, a flat nasal bridge, a "pot-belly" and/or thick, yellowish skin that may be confused with mongolism; while iodine deficiency is a known cause of goiter. But neither illness is endemic in the Philippines to deserve much public alarm. Meanwhile, if our grade school children truly find widespread learning difficulty, common sense suggests that it be more properly the concern of the Department of Education, not as much of the DOH.

I am certainly not against the use of iodized salt; I only wish to draw a line between what is necessary and what is desirable. To sweepingly associate the non-use of iodized salt with mental dullness among children is rather too shocking for the common *tao* who can ill-afford to buy it from the groceries, and unduly discouraging for numerous people whose daily bread comes from selling plain salt in the wet markets.

—DR. BASILIO B. AMBIDA,
Ambida Dental Clinic, Bauan, Batangas

Giving up public consultations for surveys

RANDY David did the country good when he revealed in his column "Rationalization" (PDI, 01/16/05) the social conditions which keep our leaders politically—and I would add, psychologically—immature. He cited the circumstances that made them so and—again, let me add—the psychological circumstances that made them spiritually deficient.

The problem is that our leaders have gotten accustomed to rationalizing their failures with clever rhetoric to the point of nauseating everyone within hearing distance. It indicates an inability or unwillingness to empathize with the people.

Don't we have a long history of insensitive leadership precisely because of a misplaced cleverness that makes our leaders incapable of feeling the true "pulse of the nation"?

It is common knowledge that our leaders have done away with public consultations. Instead, they now rely solely on public surveys. The problem is that, unlike the former, the latter suffer inaccuracies due to the limitations of purely theoretical reports. Add the fact that the latter is an unnecessary expense and you have people guessing about the leaders' true psychological state.

The point, of course, is that no one expects leadership to succeed on a platform of elitism or favoritism. A double standard of justice has alienated the *masa* from the government. The ruling elite seem bent on using their economic advantage—and cunning rhetoric—to silence the majority who lack education. It explains the situation of "rents" in David's essay, while the psychological situation just described explains the fact of unrestrained greed among the powerful, which brings about the condition of social inequality, oligarchy, cronyism, graft and corruption in government and big business, and the stinking moral decline.

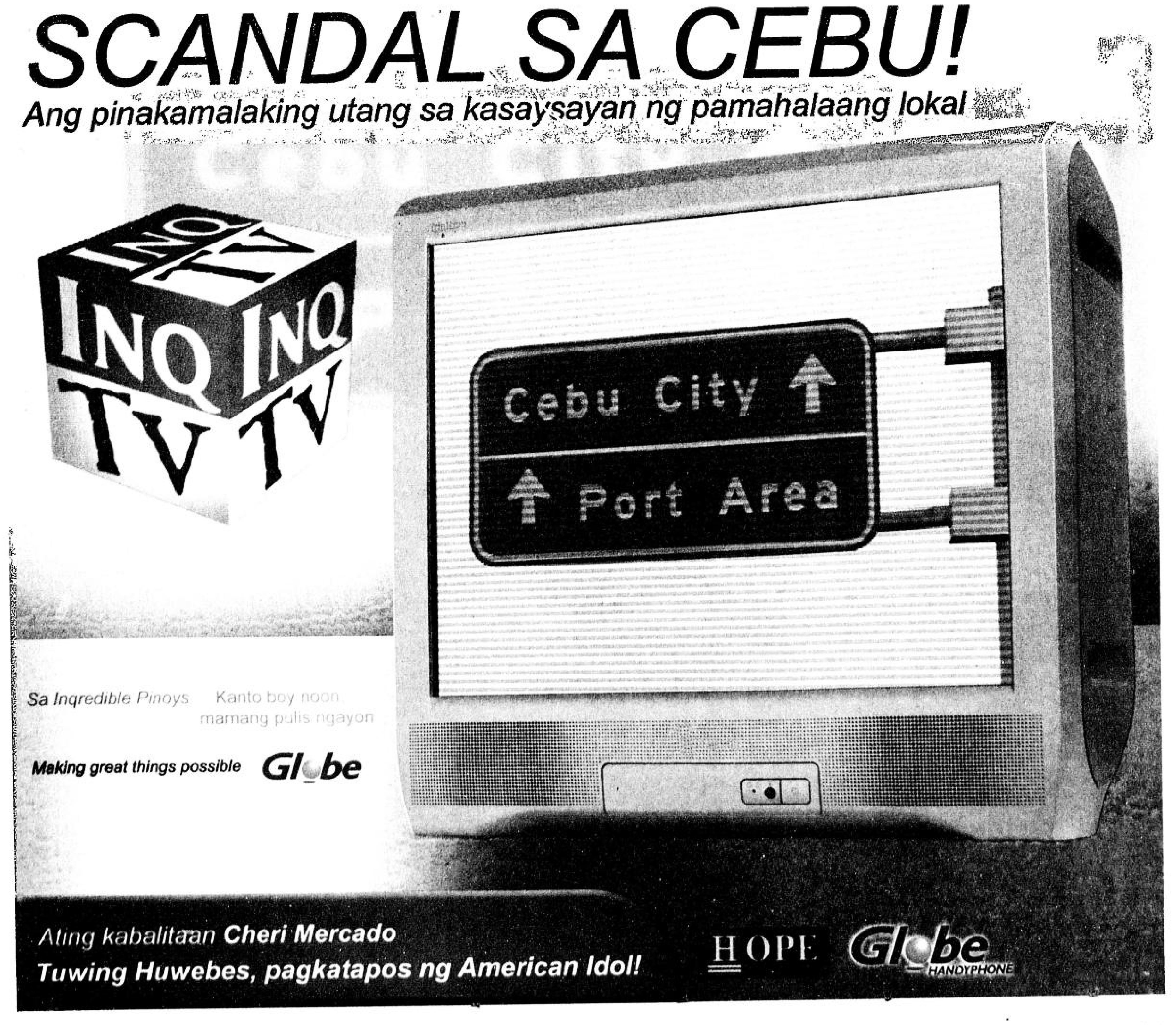
In other words, our laws have been used by the strong to control the weak. The political rivalry of contending economic interests only shows that one group is as corrupt as the other. Hence, the dissatisfaction with the incumbent administration doesn't mean the opposition is acceptable as replacement. And for as long as the psychological ineptitude in leadership is not corrected, the entire nation will remain incapable of achieving political maturity. Indeed, we will rot in obsolescence if we can't rise above our weaknesses.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

ERRATUM

Yesterday's editorial, titled "Fear," stated that Maximo Quindao, editor and publisher of the Tagum-based Mindanao Trucknews, was "shot dead." Quindao, in fact, survived the attack though he was seriously wounded. We regret the error.

—Ed.


SCANDAL SA CEBU!
Ang pinakamalaking utang sa kasaysayan ng pamahalaang lokal
INQ TV
INQ TV
Cebu City
Port Area
Sa Inqredible Pinoys
Kanto boy noon
mamang pulis ngayon
Making great things possible
Globe
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Tuwing Huwebes, pagkatapos ng American Idol!
HOPE
Globe HANDYPHONE

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8
Fax No. (052) 820-
E-mail: inq_bicol@ .ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

DENR chief scored for erroneous data

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Was it a problem of computation?

Rodrigo Pupos said he might file a libel case against Environment Secretary Michael Defensor for naming him as top illegal logger in the country when he only has a mini-sawmill in Medina town in Misamis Oriental.

Pupos' name was included in the list of "top 10 illegal logging cases filed" recently which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) forwarded to the Department of Justice. Pupos topped that list, with a total of P2.3 million worth of illegal logs confiscated.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also named Pupos in her privilege speech on Monday.

But Pupos said there was a problem in the computation.

"If they would compute properly what they have confiscated, it will only amount to about P600,000, not the bloated P2.3 million," Pupos told the INQUIRER.

Pupos said that Defensor and Santiago should have checked their documents and sources first before coming up with the list.

Pupos faces a criminal case before the regional trial court in Malaybalay City after his 10-wheel truck loaded with 365 flitches of lauan was apprehended in Barangay Mibantang in Quezon town in Bukidnon on April 17, 2003.

The DENR's document showed the total volume of the lauan was 9,538.13 board feet. Based on the DENR's estimate, the logs would be worth P143,01.95 or P15 per board feet.

Maximo Dichoso, DENR executive director for Northern Mindanao, said Pupos was not a logging operator.

Dichoso also expressed dismay over the inclusion of Pupos' name in the list which, he said, portrayed a "sweeping image" that the region is in illegal logging operations.

"It is ironic that the region has been listed among the top of ... illegal logging cases in the country, when there is even a total log ban in Bukidnon," Dichoso said.

But Dichoso admitted that Northern Mindanao has become the transit highway of illegally cut logs from nearby provinces like the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Caraga Region.

Dichoso said the P2.3 million included the estimated price of the truck.

Pupos said he did know that his truck, which delivered assorted goods to Davao City, was being used to transport logs. His own P600,000 estimate included the price of his truck.

Earlier, Supt. Willie Dangane, police chief for General Santos City, also cleared the name of Maj. Dencio Antonio Jr., who was listed by the DENR as one of the top 10 illegal loggers in the country.

Antonio, then commander of the Army's 7th Special Forces Battalion assigned to Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, was accused of transporting illegally-cut lumber in August last year.

But Dangane said the seized lumber was only about 3,000 board feet and the market price was less than P200,000, and not P759,000 as reported by the DENR. *Grace Cantal-Albasin and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DEFENSOR inspecting seized illegal lumber at the port area in Manila.

PDI PHOTO

Reds ask GMA to declare total log ban

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao has challenged the Arroyo administration to declare a total log ban on the island to prove it is serious in protecting and preserving the environment.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris, NDF spokesperson for Mindanao, said that along with many medium-sized logging companies, the biggest and worst destroyers of Mindanao forests are the so-called "legal loggers."

Madlos named Picop Resources Inc., which is controlled by the Bernardino family, which covers 270,000 hectares of timber concession in Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur and Compostela Valley provinces, as one of the so-called legal loggers but worst destroyers of the forests.

Others include Nasipit and Anakan Lumber Company which covers 171,700 ha in Agusan Del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon provinces; Woodland Domain Inc. (54,000 ha) in Agusan Del Sur; Puyat-owned Surigao Development Corp. in Surigao del Sur; Aras-Asan Timber Corp. in Surigao del Sur; and holders of Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma), Community-based Forest Management and the Timber License Agreements.

These schemes, Ka Oris said, are being used by the government as smokescreens for wanton forest destruction.

He said these concessionaires would not thrive without the protection from the military, politicians and the DENR.

The NDF official said the timber industry is not only a big source of campaign funds, it is also an instrument to perpetuate the influence and power of politicians.

The NDF spokesperson challenged the administration to impose a total log ban nationwide, revoke all timber license agreements, Ifma and other schemes that legalize the continued rape of mountains and forests.

He said government must also stop all illegal logging activities by "prosecuting all illegal loggers, AFP and PNP personnel, politicians and DENR officials who connive, consort, co-finance, and protect illegal logging." *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Vice mayor of Laoag shot dead outside bar

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Vice Mayor Jimmy Chua just came from an evening revelry as part of the opening day of the annual city fiesta Wednesday when two motorcycle-riding men approached and shot him at close range, killing him instantly.

Chua, 38, and other city officials went for a night out after midnight Tuesday at a bar and restaurant owned by Eric Fariñas, younger brother of former Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas and uncle of incumbent Laoag Mayor Michael Fariñas.

Mayor Fariñas took Chua and members of the Laoag City council to a dinner at the Eagle's Nest bar after attending the opening city fiesta program at the Ilocos Norte provincial capitol.

"This is a sad day for the city," Mayor Fariñas told the INQUIRER by phone.

"But the show must go on."

Supt. Joel Pagdilao, city police chief, said the mayor and other officials left the bar a few hours after midnight while Chua and Councilor Melvin de la Cuesta were left behind.

Chua was waiting for De la Cuesta at the latter's jeep parked just outside the bar when the gunmen approached and shot him once in the temple at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday.

De la Cuesta, who was then at the bar's toilet, immediately went out after hearing gunfire and saw Chua sprawled on the ground.

He told police that he saw two men in a motorcycle flee to the northern section of the city. The driver was wearing a crash helmet, the other was wearing a baseball cap.

UNDER SIEGE

A farmer harvests tobacco leaves in a farm in Candon, Ilocos Sur, indicating continuing trade in tobacco, an industry under siege recently from antismoking advocates. Candon is one of the country's biggest producers of Virginia tobacco.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Tree-cutting, quarrying OKd by Defensor in Subic

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The indiscriminate cutting of trees and unregulated quarrying of filling materials for a Japanese-funded seaport project were continuing at a 12-hectare portion of the Maritan Hill inside the Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan.

These went on although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Environmental Management Bureau, issued a notice of violation to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's ecology center two weeks ago.

As of last week, about 70 percent of the soil had been hauled, according to a report received by the DENR Central Luzon office.

EMB Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio on Wednesday said her office would recommend the issuance of a cease-and-desist order if the ecology center would continue disregarding the terms specified in an environmental compliance certificate and a special tree-cutting permit covering the Maritan Hill quarry project.

Former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun issued the ECC on Nov. 14 last year. The permit, given by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor on Dec. 14 last year, allowed the balling of 7,398 saplings and the cutting of 2,217 trees provided each was replaced with 50 saplings.

But in his Jan. 28 reply to EMB Director Julian Amador, Roberto Feliciano, head of the SBMA's project management office for foreign-assisted projects, made no reference to the two major violations the DENR had noted.

His replies were limited to noise and air quality, construction of fences and installation of warning signs and water runoff catchment.

Reached by phone, SBMA ecology chief Ameth de la Llana said the two violations were not cited in the notice. She confirmed that quarrying activities were ongoing but denied any breaches in the terms of the ECC and permit.

Reached on this supposed omission, Claudio said she would check with the EMB national office.

Lawyer Ricardo Lazaro Jr., chief of the provincial environment and natural resources office (Penro) in Bataan, said in a Jan. 7 report that the ecology center made "blatant violations" of the ECC and permit.

The findings of the Penro and the EMB team include "the indiscriminate felling and trampling of trees and saplings."

"No earthballing of saplings and proper cutting of trees (have) ever been done contrary to the strict conditionalities of the ECC and cutting permit," the team reported.

Phivolcs warns mountaineers vs climbing Mayon

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) observatory office here has reiterated its warning for mountain climbers not to trek the slopes of Mt. Mayon.

"Right now, we are discouraging ascent to the summit because ... there is a possibility of small, phreatic explosions in the summit because it is still hot. These phreatic events could endanger the lives of mountain climbers," Phivolcs Legazpi chief Eduardo Laguerta said in an interview.

Phreatic explosions are caused by the continuous process of water or hydrothermal fluid coming in contact with rising magma, causing steam that lead to small explosions.

According to Laguerta, there is a greater risk of phreatic explosions now, especially since the dry season is near.

Heat may trigger this kind of explosion, said the Phivolcs. *Leo Martin B. Ganace and Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Typhoid fever downs 133 residents of Negros village

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—An outbreak of typhoid fever was reported in Sibulan, Negros Oriental, where 133 residents had fallen ill since mid January.

Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia yesterday sent a letter to the Department of Health central office, requesting that experts be sent to his town to determine the cause of the outbreak.

"We have to determine first the cause of this outbreak for us to know what must be done to address this problem. The trouble is we don't have experts even in the region, that's why we are requesting the DOH Manila to send experts here," Renacia told the INQUIRER.

The mayor said he also asked the municipal council to declare the town under the state of calamity so the P2-million calamity fund could be tapped.

Renacia was concerned about the steep rise in the number of cases despite a house-to-house campaign conducted by health workers in a bid to stop the spread of the disease.

Sixteen residents were reported to have been afflicted of the disease from middle of January to Jan. 29. But the number went up to 133 as of yesterday, or in a span of four days.

Most of the patients came from Barangays Looc, Poblacion and Ajong. Other cases were from Barangays Cangmating, Balugo, Maslog and Magatas.

Dr. Bernarda Cortes, chief of the technical division of the Integrated provincial health office, said it was possible that more residents had been infected but had not manifested symptoms yet.

Sibulan, about 5.5 km north of Dumaguete, has 15 barangays. According to its website, this fourth-class municipality has a population of 37,523.

The website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the US Department of Health and Human Services described typhoid fever as a life-threatening illness caused by the bacterium Salmonella typhi.

Last week, health workers started conducting a house-to-house information drive to avert a possible outbreak after 16 residents were downed by the disease.

Merlina Papas, municipal health officer, said based on Cortes' recommendation, health workers of the town were sent to different barangays to advise residents to maintain sanitation, boil their water and avoid eating raw food.

Renacia also went on-air on local TV and radio stations sending the same message.

The mayor said health and town officials were suspecting that a leak in the main pipeline of the Sibulan Water District might have caused the typhoid fever outbreak.

Renacia said they found out about the leak only recently from a resident who told him that workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways accidentally hit the pipeline.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Tagbanua folk learn ways of sustainable dev't

A TAGBANUA farmer shows his harvest after going through training with UP volunteer experts. COURTESY OF UP-CIDS

By Jofelle Tesorio
Coron, Palawan

ONE HUMID afternoon, in Barangay Borac, the rice granary of Coron in northern Palawan, a number of curious farmers listened to experts discuss farming.

The small group belonged to a batch of farmers taking a special course on rice breeding and production.

"How do we deal with golden *kuhol* (snail)?" asked barangay chair Nestor Pascual, one of the trainees, who had been using pesticides.

"We cannot control the spread of golden *kuhol*, especially during rainy season," said Dr. Gil Magsino, an agricultural expert from the University of the Philippines (UP) Ugnayang Pahinungod. The volunteer service program is being implemented by the UP Center for Integrative Development Studies (UP-CIDS).

Instead of suggesting the use of pesticides, Magsino explained the tedious and smart process of getting rid of the pest. He said the snails usually hibernated under the soil, especially in damp areas in the field, and came out only when the water was high—the perfect time to catch them.

The golden *kuhol* usually eats rice stalks nine to 20 days old.

To prevent attacks, the rice seedlings must be transferred to the farm only when these are mature enough. Farmers have to delay the transfer for a while, suggested Magsino.

During this time, farmers should identify where the snails thrive. They could put leaves of a local plant known as "*badyang*" to the area where the golden *kuhol* concentrate because the pests love to eat this plant variety.

When the pests appear, the farmers could take them one by one. The snail is also good food for pigs.

This whole practice could save the farmers money and spare the soil from chemicals.

Magsino's group discourages the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It teaches the farmers how to improve production by identifying the appropriate variety to plant.

"We used to burn the haystack because it kept on piling up. Little did we know that it was a good fertilizer," Anatolio Vergara, member of the Project Management Committee of the Saragpunta, said.

Tapping IPs

With the recent effects of environmental degradation in the country, Erwin Vargas, researcher from UP-CIDS, saw the importance of tapping indigenous peoples, like the Tagbanuas, in sustainable education and development projects.

This, he said, was a proactive stance to curb the continuing destruction of the environment.

The Tagbanuas are now being eased out by non-Tagbanuas in their own ancestral domain where resources are becoming scarce due to unhampered exploitation and illegal activities.

But nothing is impossible for the Tagbanuas of the Calamianes, a chain of islands composed of four famous tourist destinations in the Philippines: Coron, Culion, Busuanga and Linapacan.

As the oldest guardians of the forest and the seas of Palawan, they have nurtured the environment long before tourism came into existence. They fought for ancestral waters years ago and were given the title to the entire Coron Island that they now manage for fishing and tourism activities.

The concept of sustainable development may be new to them, but they are willing to go the extra mile to preserve the environment being threatened by unsustainable tourism and economic activities.

With the help of the local government of Antwerp, Belgium, through Belgium-based nongovernment organization Volens Itinerans and the Saragpunta Foundation of the Calamianes, 12 communities try to make a difference in dealing with nature's bounty.

Training

Jose Medina, director of the Ugnayang Pahinungod in UP Los Baños, saw the need for the Tagbanua farmers to undergo training.

A UP EXPERT (in red shirt) shows Tagbanua farmers the hows of farming without chemicals. COURTESY OF UP-CIDS

They have to go through three stages before graduating in the full course. The first process involves functional literacy. Some are taught to read and write for them to monitor their farms. But instead of teaching the traditional ABCs, their first words are usually farm related like *palay* (rice).

Part of UP's technical assistance is to bring in different varieties of rice.

In four months, the farmer must know how to observe, research and identify which variety is most suitable to his farm.

In the second stage, the farmer must be able to analyze what is happening in the farm. The third is to produce an "expert farmer" who could share to his fellow farmers the knowledge he has learned.

"He should be an expert in seed selection so we could leave [the community] when we are not needed much," Medina emphasized.

Somewhere on Calauit Island in Busuanga, the farmers tried to use a rice variety that could thrive in high-saline soil even when seawater flowed to the farms.

Another skill taught the farmers is seaweed farming. The Tagbanuas initially planted 500 kilos of seaweeds for breeding. About 300 kilos survived and they eventually harvested 1,200 kilos.

A portion of the haul was sold, but the big bulk was distributed to other residents so the chain continues.

University of life

On Tending Island in Culion, the Tagbanuas will get a chance to have a degree in Ecological Architecture, a special course that will enable students to know more about their environment.

Josefa Garcia, Volens Itinerans extension worker, said the Pamantasan ng Buhay (University of Life), would enable the Tagbanuas to have more self-confidence.

"It's not just giving them a degree but teaching them how to conserve, enhance and [use] their environment with practical and scientific approaches," she said.

Culion Mayor Emiliano Marasigan Jr. was very happy to host the university. "It is the indigenous people's chance to be educated," he said.

Marasigan is one of the mayors in the Calamianes who has initiated a 10-point agenda for development. One of the components of his programs is education and livelihood for IPs.

With a meager P30,000-P50,000 budget for IPs every year, Marasigan was able to help them start seaweed production, animal dispersal and nonformal education.

He said they could not have more budget because some have been allocated to other projects but he promised to provide all the logistical requirements to make the University of Life an institution in Culion.

UP professors, with the help of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, and the Department of Education, will provide education materials and manpower to run the university.

Tending used to be a resort leased by a former municipal councilor but it closed down due to market forces.

The cottages that still exist will be converted into classrooms, kitchen and quarters for the students who are chosen from 12 IP communities.

Only 24 students, two from each community, would comprise the first batch.

Part of the curriculum is a livelihood program so students could plant and cultivate vegetables they will consume.

At the end of the course, the students should be able to transfer the knowledge to the community. Ideally, they should also be able to teach the next batch of students.

Needed projects

The program lies on the recognition of the IP's right to choose the kind of projects appropriate to their communities.

"It is always better if they are the ones who identify the projects because they know what they need," Garcia said.

Barangay chairs Rodolfo Aguilar of Cabuyao, Alfredo Carpiano of Malawig and Ben Caliv of Bulalacao expressed optimism over the projects they have chosen.

Aguilar, a long-time Tagbanua leader, said they requested for seaweed farming, vegetable farming and hog dispersal as alternative projects when the sea is rough.

Because Aguilar's village depends much on the sea, the people are also active in patrolling against illegal fishermen, who are mostly from Quezon province and Cavite. They have devised a schedule for patrol so everyone could be responsible.

"IPs like us do not have education so we need to unite to make our lives better," the elderly Tagbanua said.

Carpiano, on the other hand, was very happy with the irrigation project they asked.

It had been a dream in his barangay. They have resigned from waiting and help was like a fresh raindrop in times of drought.

Caliv also devised an effective way of animal dispersal in his barangay.

He was very strict with the beneficiaries of the program. Without training, one could not get an animal to breed.

'We aim to help people come up for themselves'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR INDIGENOUS communities leading a life almost unadulterated by time, living comes from every drop of water and each handful of soil.

But as their unskillful use of nature's endowments has come to endanger their very source of life, the Tagbanuas of northern Palawan have become students in nature nurture, gradually learning how to use their resources while preserving them for future generations.

Changes have come the way of the Tagbanuas of the Calamianes Group of Islands in Palawan, once isolated by geography from the reach of development. On these islands abundantly gifted by nature, sustainable development has become keywords slowly being put into practice.

It took a foreign initiative to bring the idea of sustainable development to the island region, with a P14-million funding from the provincial council of Antwerp, Belgium. Yearly, the province allocates 0.7 percent of its budget for projects in developing countries. It had given help to Senegal in Africa and Guatemala in Central America.

No Santa Clauses

"Other people wait until someone comes, like Santa Claus, I give you school, a teacher, etc. That's not our aim. Our aim is to help the people come up for themselves, and after five years we [want to] see that the communities can govern themselves," said Ludo Helsen, an Antwerp official who visited the Calamian Tagbanuas last November.

Through the Belgian nongovernment organization Volens Itinerans, the Antwerp council funded the five-year project called the Development Cooperation for Livelihood Improvement Program for the Calamian Tagbanuas.

The project, which began in April 2003, was in pursuit of the provisions of Republic Act No. 7611, the Strategic Environment Plan of Palawan, and RA 8371, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

"We want them to work on sustainable development, that they learn to work on the long term. Sometimes, we have the impression that people only want to work for the next day, or the day itself, but not for tomorrow, or the rest of the year, not for the next generation," said Jos Geuens, who is in charge of Antwerp's environment and development cooperation.

The Belgians teamed up with Saragpunta, the local umbrella group of Calamianes people's organizations, in reaching out to residents of Culion, Coron and Busuanga.

Technical assistance

Completing the circle for the Calamianes initiative is the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP-CIDS), a research arm under the UP's Office of the University President, which provides training to the Tagbanuas.

Already past its first year of implementation, the project has been training Tagbanua communities on the proper use of natural resources under a program called the "Pamantasan ng Buhay" (University of Life). The cooperation effort seeks to someday have the Tagbanuas graduate from living only for the "now" to living through "now" and saving for the future.

In the 13 Calamianes barangays, the Saragpunta, Volens Itinerans, and UP-CIDS have begun teaching land and sea-based resource management.

Communities that depend mostly on land for food are being trained on soil conservation, backyard gardening, rice production, and livestock raising. Those living in areas harnessing water resources are taught small-scale water projects, sea farming and coastal resource management.

Curriculum supplement

Early childhood care and development are also among the lessons in the University of Life, a program that works as a supplement for the Department of Education curriculum for public schools.

"The curriculum is not localized. So as an educational component, we want to conceptualize education based on their culture and aspiration, to come up with an indigenous curriculum for the Tagbanua," said Erwin Vargas, UP-CIDS researcher who goes from time to time to do fieldwork in the Calamianes.

Encompassing their technical skills development are classes on community building, one of the foremost goals of the Belgian government for the Tagbanua folk.

"What we like to see after five years is a strong organization that can exist without our help, [a] … self-reliant … organization," said Joris Bossaerts, a Belgian development official.

And it seems, the Tagbanuas are quick to get the hang of new skills.

"From the ecological level, the Calamianes are changing. They cannot just harvest and they have to challenge, improve nature for their own benefit. I think they are more keen on developing now than they were before. They realize that they really need to stick together," said Bert JM Peeters, a Belgian expert in permaculture (sustainable development culture). Peeters works with the Tagbanuas on-site in the Calamianes.

The Belgians also seek to learn from the Tagbanua experience.

"We want to use this program to educate people in our province. We have our own problems too but we have to help each other," said Geuens.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2 27 16

SUERTRES 7 5 5

FOUR DIGIT 3 1 9 5

(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 8 10 13 18 21 25

₱53,737,013.40

SWEEPSTAKES 4 6 2 8 4 1 C

₱100,000.00

Metro sees decrease in crimes

By Tina G. Santos

THE NUMBER of crimes in Metro Manila dropped by 15 percent in the last quarter of 2004 compared to the same period the previous year, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Avelino Razon Jr. reported yesterday.

Razon attributed the significant drop of crime incidence to the deployment of more police officers in institutions like shopping malls, transport terminals, schools, markets, churches and other densely populated areas.

Police visibility

The NCRPO chief ordered greater police visibility during the holiday season when petty crimes rise. Conspicuous in shopping malls were so-called Santa Cops, officers who went about their duty wearing Santa Claus hats.

Razon said that based on statistics, the average monthly crime rate in Metro Manila was 15 percent, which is lower compared to the 17.51 percent in 2003.

Based on the report submitted by the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, among the crimes committed were theft (19 percent), robbery (16 percent), physical injuries (13 percent), murder (3 percent), homicide (two percent) and rape (two percent).

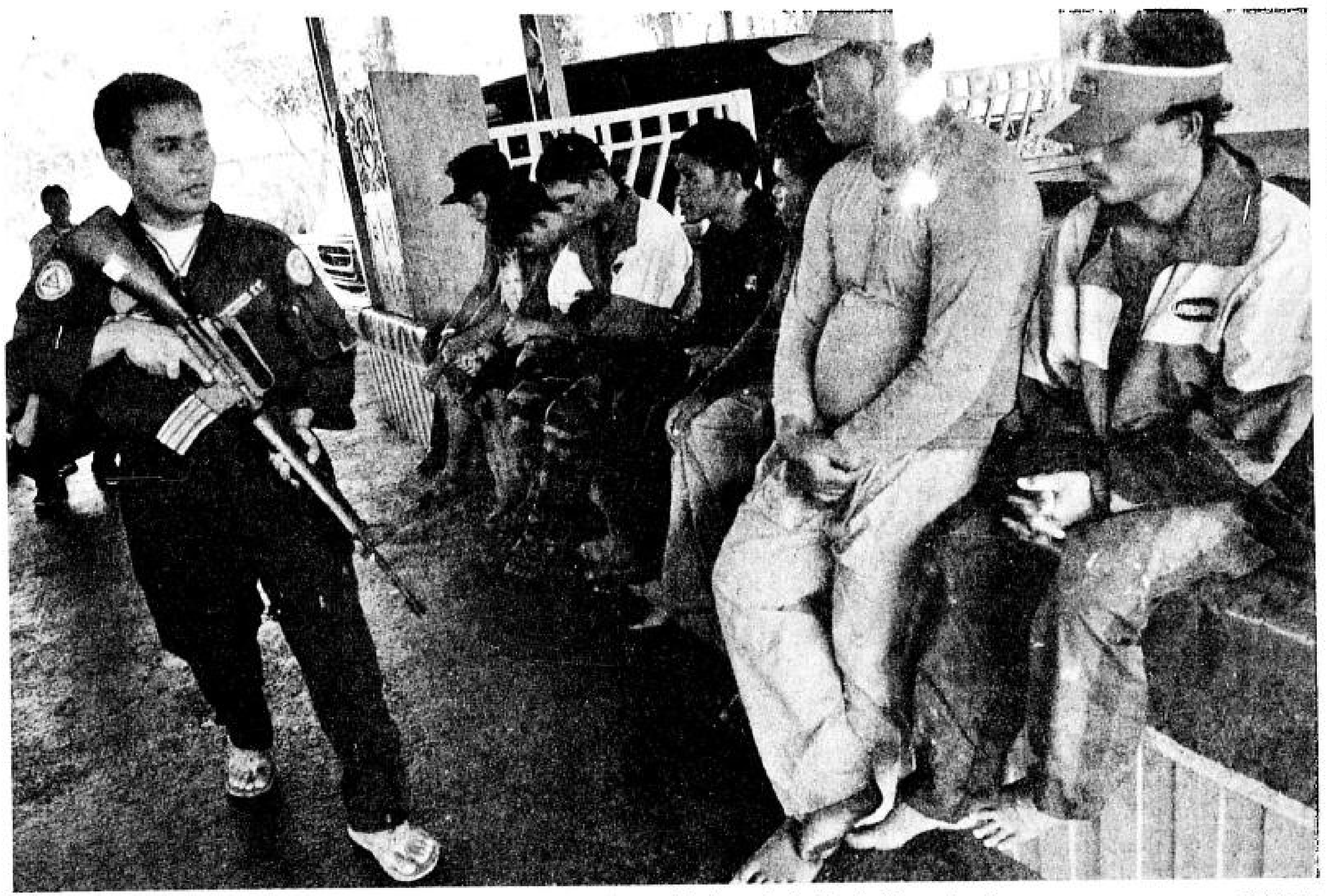
Bank robberies

The same record, however, showed that the Central Police District and the Southern Police District had the most number of bank robbery cases with eight and six, respectively.

And although incidents of car theft went down in December 2004, records showed that CPD and SPD also had the most number of incidents, with 492 and 263, respectively.

'DIRTY' BUSINESS

Garbage violators face charges


A POLICEMAN closely watches fishermen caught for allegedly fishing with dynamite in Manila Bay yesterday.

ERIK ARAZAS

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DON'T forget the penalties.

Giving teeth to its campaign of implementing the waste management law, Manila's Department of Public Services (DPS) said it would prosecute those who would refuse to follow its "no segregation, no collection" policy.

"We would give them one week to comply with the no segregation, no collection policy. If they fail to comply, we could sue them or place them behind bars," said Annie Farrales, DPS operations officer.

She was referring to residents and barangay officials of Manila's sixth district, the first residential area in the city where the Ecological Waste Management Act of 2001 would be implemented. That law is the department's basis for the "no segregation, no collection policy."

One month to go

Beginning March, residents in the district must separate their non-biodegradable trash, which include plastic and styrofoam, from biodegradable waste, such as paper and leftover food.

Residents would also be required to separate recyclable materials.

The policy has been implemented in the city's free-standing fast-food branches and is set to be enforced on shopping malls.

The enforcement of sanctions is entailed in the department's aim to more vigorously enforce this waste management law, Farrales said.

"We must exercise strong political will. It's the only way to succeed," she said.

In the frontline of those who may be held liable are barangay officials.

Residents who also refuse to segregate their trash may serve jail time of between one and 15 days, or pay a fine of between P300 and P1,000.

Coast Guard nabs 10 dynamite fishermen

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR days after the arrest of blast fishermen in Cavite, the Coast Guard again scored against the illegal practice yesterday with the arrest of 10 fishermen in Parañaque City.

The fishermen were caught while throwing homemade dynamites into the sea from a motor banca, said PCG Commandant Vice-Admiral Arthur Gosingan.

According to Gosingan, the PCG operatives conducted a stakeout early yesterday morning for the fishermen, who had been the subject of complaints from fish pen operators and mussel growers in Parañaque.

The operators said they had seen the suspects conducting illegal blast and trawl fishing.

Blast fishing involves the use of explosives to kill fish so that they could be easily scooped into a boat.

Trawl fishing, on the other hand, involves scraping the bottom of the sea with finely-honed nets to catch fish, including the babies.

Damaging coral reefs

Both practices deplete the supply of fish and damage coral reefs that serve as homes to sea creatures.

According to the Coast Guard, the fishermen tried to elude arrest by speeding away and throwing their explosives overboard.

However, authorities in high-speed rubber boats were able to catch up with the suspects.

Those arrested were identified as Darwin Delima, Marvin Zeta, Gerardo Dacallos, Bobby Anduyo, JR Acaba, Lio Bucha, Jerick Bazcal, Marlon Latuwa, Lito Erigong and Prodenciado Toro.

Complaints of violation of the antifisheries law were filed against them at the Parañaque Prosecutors Office.

Hospital denies holding widow's body

CONTRARY to earlier reports, the Pasig City General Hospital said over the weekend that it did not withhold the release of the body of the widow of rape convict Leo Echegaray, the country's first death convict since the capital punishment was restored in the country in the 1990s.

The hospital said that it saw to it that the body of Zenaida Echegaray, Leo's widow, was released to her family at the soonest possible time.

The PCGH said the body was immediately released following a full application of Philhealth benefits amounting to P24,925, an endorsement for PCSO assistance for P10,000 and a promissory note of P2,000, and a "meager cash payment of P500."

In an interview yesterday, hospital administrator Honoracio Apuyan Jr. decried an alleged attempt by the family of the late widow to put the hospital and its employees under bad light.

Apuyan said the P500 paid by the family of Echegaray even came from one of the hospital's employees.

Documents provided by the PCGH said the hospital also gave a subsidy of P2,879 to settle Zenaida's bill of a little more than P40,000.

The INQUIRER reported on Jan. 21 that Zeny's daughter was in dire financial straits and was in a quandary on how their family could claim her mother's body.

Zenaida died after one of her veins burst due to high blood pressure.

Her daughter appealed for financial support from donors, purportedly to be able to pay for the hospital bills and get her mother's body.

However, the hospital said, Echegaray's family appealed for financial help to get her body out of the hospital even after the widow's remains had been released from the PCGH.

According to Apuyan, Echegaray died on Jan. 19 and her body was released the following day.

The hospital official also belied claims by Echegaray's family that formalin was used on Zenaida's body only because the PCGH allegedly did not have a freezer at its morgue.

"*Dapat nagpunta sila sa morgue namin para nakapagpalamig pa sila* (They should have gone to our morgue so they could have cooled themselves off)," said Apuyan, referring to the hospital's morgue freezer.

The hospital said it was a standard operating procedure not to include trauma medicines in the hospital bill but to require their replacement so other patients may be immediately attended to "and use the same in order to save their lives." *Norman Bordadora and Cenon B. Bibe Jr.*

2 in Pasay positive for typhoid

THE HEALTH Department reported yesterday that two of 39 cases of fever from a water contamination site in Pasay City have tested positive for typhoid.

Dr. Troy Gepte of the National Epidemiology Center told the INQUIRER yesterday that it was taking the Regional Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) some time in making an announcement because the tests were taking long.

Gepte said The tests would prove if these were typhoid cases or not, Gepte said.

He added more cases could be announced today.

In a check with the City Health Office, suspected typhoid cases in Barangay 123 had risen to 41 as of yesterday afternoon.

The suspected typhoid have been blamed on the contamination of the water supply in the barangay.

Maynilad has blamed booster pump users for the seepage of contaminated water into the pipes.

Also yesterday, the city's legal officer took up the cudgels for booster pump users.

"Maynilad should provide us a law that prohibits the use of booster pumps," said Phil Ramos, the city legal officer.

Ramos said that if the use of the pumps was against the law, then offenders should be penalized.

"But if there's none then we cannot do anything about it," he added.

The legal officer was apparently not aware of the provisions of the code of sanitation of 1976 and its implementing rules of 1999 which prohibits the connection of booster pumps directly to the main line. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Restos 'with a heart' get DOH nod

By Tina G. Santos

THREE restaurants in Mandaluyong City were cited by health authorities and food experts yesterday for serving "heart-friendly" menus in a non-smoking environment.

Cited as advocates of the Philippine Heart Association's "Mag-Healthy Lifestyle Tayo sa Resto" were Mini Shabu Shabu, Delifresh Organic Food Restaurant, and Dome Cafe for complying with the set standards for a healthy diet menu.

The restaurants, located at the posh Shangri-La Mall Plaza, were also recognized for promoting a smoke-free environment in their respective establishments.

"May such restaurants increase because operating a restaurant that serves heart-friendly cuisine and where smoking is a big no, entails risks, considering that there are more diners who prefer restaurants with designated smoking areas," said PHA advocacy committee chair Dr. Efren Vicaldo at a press conference yesterday.

The search for healthy alternative dining areas is a component of the "Mag-HL Tayo" nationwide advocacy project of the Department of Health and the PHA. A team composed of doctors, dietitians and health/sanitary inspectors from different health agencies evaluated the credentials of entries in the search.

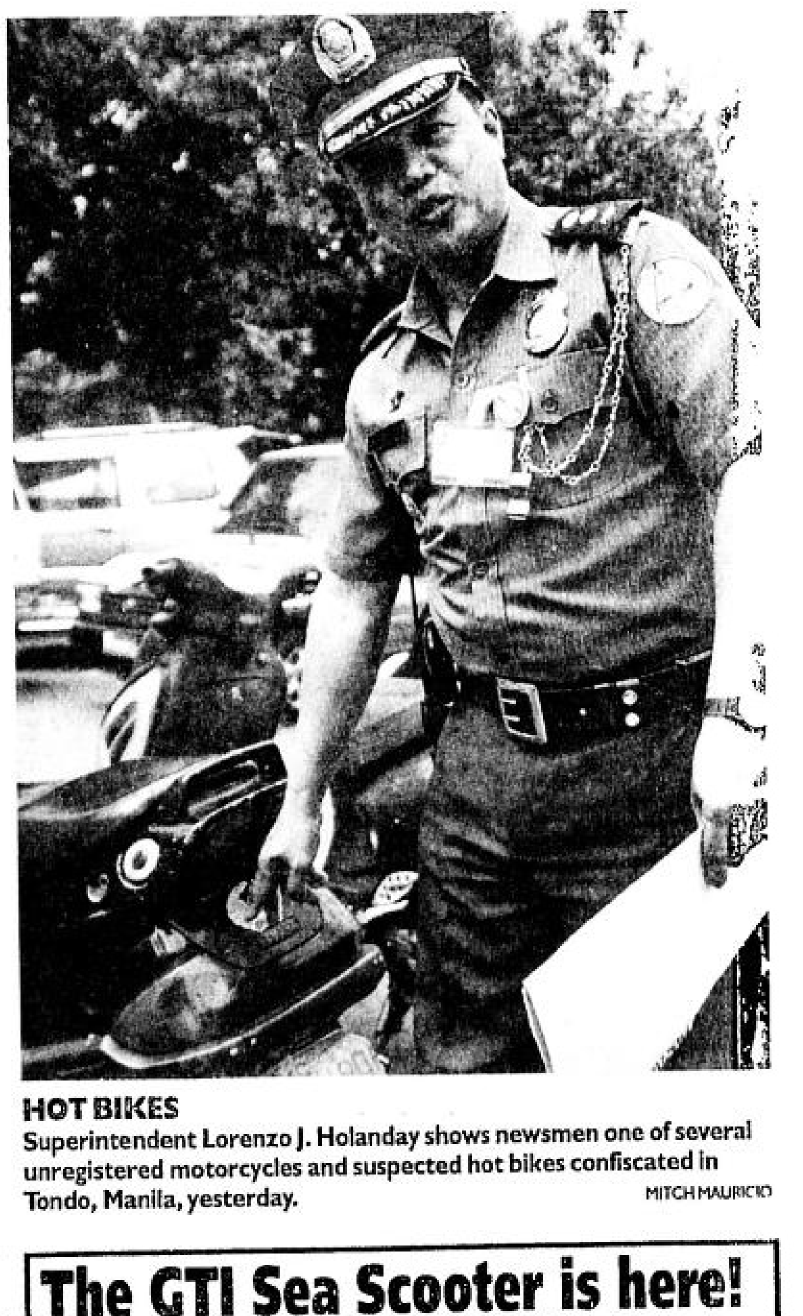
The restaurants were cited based on the following criteria: physical structure—25 percent; manpower—15 percent; menu recipe composition—25 percent; method of preparation—15 percent; and food service—15 percent. A five percent bonus was given to participants with innovative features.

Catering to a Class A and Class B clientèle, Mini Shabu Shabu Restaurant whips up healthy food including garden fresh greens, seafoods and meat prepared without any cooking oil.

Buoyed by the fast-growing popularity of organic food restaurants, Delifresh, in keeping with its eating healthy philosophy, opted for a non-smoking restaurant that concocts a melange of fresh garden salads, vegetarian pastas and sandwiches.

Classified as a restaurant-cum-coffee shop, Dome Cafe is patronized by the A and B market for its healthy menus like smoked salmon, bangus belly and roasted veggie pasta, among others.

The three restaurants were given certificates of recognition signed by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales and PHA president Norbert Lingling Uy.

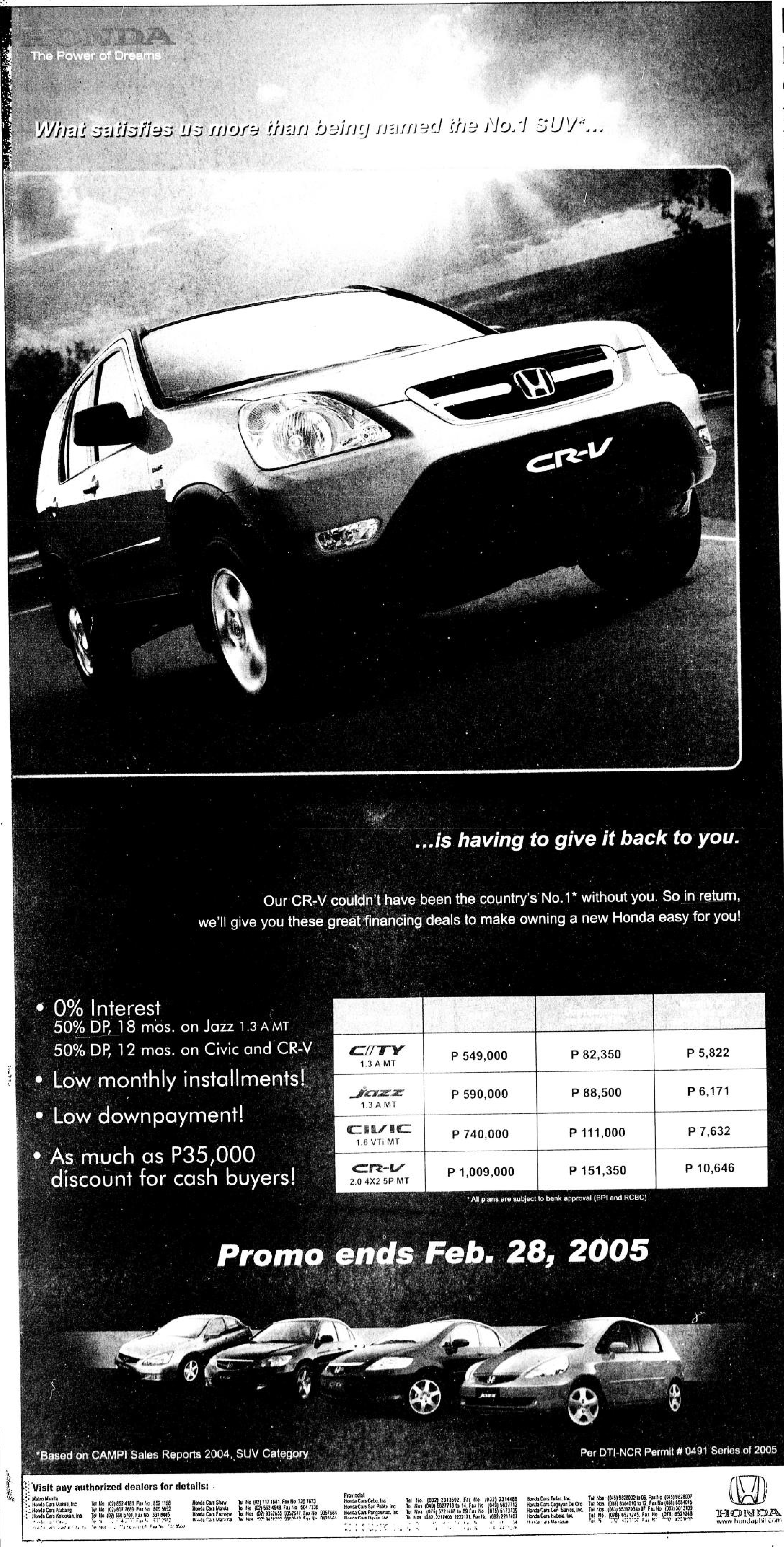

HOT BIKES

Superintendent Lorenzo J. Holanday shows newsmen one of several unregistered motorcycles and suspected hot bikes confiscated in Tondo, Manila, yesterday.

MITCH MAURICIO

The GTI Sea Scooter is here!
The single-speed version of the Supercharged VS.
Intro price P28,900 only!
• For snorkelling and diving
• Rated #1 by DIVE Magazine and DSAT
• Tested to 115ft. at 4 km/hr.
• 1.5 hrs. battery life (rechargeable)
Other available models: Dolphin - SRP: P12,900
Standard DPV - SRP: P19,900
Special buddy deals for 2 or more units!
SEA-DOO Sea Scooters
Lightweight, User-friendly, Affordable
BOATING WORLD, INC.
9635 Kamagong St., San Antonio Village, Makati City Tel nos. 890 1441 • 890-4272
SEA-DOO authorized dealers
Tel 899-9500 & (0917) 8241824 • Tel 812-2848 • Anilao Batangas
Tel (043) 986 0177 • Tel (047) 252 6323 • Tel (038) 411 4029 & (0918) 824-3407 •
Tel (035) 424 0578 • Tel (043) 287 3066.69 • Tel (082) 228 353 • Tel (062) 991 4311

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



HONDA
The Power of Dreams

What satisfies us more than being named the No.1 SUV*...

CR-V

...is having to give it back to you.

Our CR-V couldn't have been the country's No.1* without you. So in return, we'll give you these great financing deals to make owning a new Honda easy for you!

- 0% Interest
  50% DP, 18 mos. on Jazz 1.3 A MT
  50% DP, 12 mos. on Civic and CR-V
- Low monthly installments!
- Low downpayment!
- As much as P35,000 discount for cash buyers!

CITY 1.3 A MT	P 549,000	P 82,350	P 5,822
JAZZ 1.3 A MT	P 590,000	P 88,500	P 6,171
CIVIC 1.6 VTi MT	P 740,000	P 111,000	P 7,632
CR-V 2.0 4X2 5P MT	P 1,009,000	P 151,350	P 10,646

*All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI and RCBC)

Promo ends Feb. 28, 2005

*Based on CAMPI Sales Reports 2004, SUV Category

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0491 Series of 2005

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. Tel No (02) 852 4181 Fax No. 852 1168
Honda Cars Alabang Tel No (02) 807 7689 Fax No 809 5052
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. Tel No (02) 366 6701, Fax No 361 8445
[illegible]
[illegible]
Honda Cars Shaw Tel No (02) 717 1681 Fax No 725 7673
Honda Cars Manila Tel No (02) 562 4548, Fax No 564 7336
Honda Cars Fairview Tel Nos (02) 9352655 9352617 Fax No 9357684
Honda Cars Marikina [illegible]

Provincial
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc Tel No (032) 2313502, Fax No (032) 2314488
Honda Cars San Pablo Inc Tel Nos (049) 5027713 to 14, Fax No (049) 5027712
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. Tel Nos (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. Tel Nos (082) 2217406 2222171, Fax No (082) 2217407
[illegible]
[illegible]
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. Tel Nos (045) 9828002 to 06, Fax No (045) 9828007
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro Tel Nos (088) 8584010 to 12, Fax No (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. Tel Nos (083) 5539796 to 97, Fax No (083) 3013109
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc. Tel No (078) 6521245, Fax No (078) 6521248
[illegible]

HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

Rail folk on way to new homes

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SOME of their neighbors are asking the government for more time, but several families in Malabon City about to be displaced by the North Rail Project are ready to move out.

The Kalipunan ng mga Magkakapitbahay sa Daang Riles Malabon (Karisma) has already submitted to the National Housing Authority a list of 174 families who offered to submit their homes to voluntary demolition, NHA sector manager Maria Theresa Oblipias told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The group has signed a memorandum of agreement with the owner of a private lot in Barangay Panghulo which they plan to buy as a relocation site.

The National Housing Authority had rejected the site several times, and instead offered residents a developed government relocation site in Towerville, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan.

The group, however, rejected the site, and opted for the "balik probinsiya" compensation they would be receiving that they intend to use as down payment for the construction of their new homes in the Panghulo relocation site.

Actor in car mishap

By Tina G. Santos

ACTOR Baron Geisler is facing multiple charges after his car rammed into another vehicle in Quezon City early Wednesday morning.

Senior Police Officer Gary Talacay of Central Traffic Sector 5 said the 21-year-old actor was driving a black Mazda when he rammed into a green Mitsubishi Lancer driven by John Ablan, reportedly a relative of Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., around 2:30 a.m. along Mariano Marcos Avenue.

Both vehicles were taken to the Traffic Sector 5 office where Geisler allegedly cursed and argued with Talacay and other traffic officers.

The actor denied he was driving the Mazda, and had pointed to his companion, Ariel Gatmaitan, as the one behind the wheel.

But Ablan positively identified Geisler as the driver of the car that reportedly hit his vehicle. Traffic authorities later learned that the Mazda belongs to his brother Donald.

Talacay said the actor would be charged with reckless imprudence, and driving without a license and under the influence of liquor in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

SPORTS
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - North Carolina vs Virginia; 8 a.m. (r); Duke vs Wake Forest; 10 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Check out the replay of the Tar Heels-Squires encounter while witness the Blue Devils take on the Demon Deacons.
NBA - Suns vs Timberwolves; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Western heavyweights clash when Phoenix visits Minnesota.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XXXVIII Highlights; 7:30 p.m.; ESPN - Check out highlights between last year's Super Bowl battle between New England and Carolina.
Schedule subject to change without prior notice.

Ginebra seizes 2-0 lead as TNT withdraws Asi

GAME TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
7:10 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text (*Game 3 of best-of-seven Finals*)

By June Navarro

ERIC Menk's one-hander with five seconds left carried Barangay Ginebra to a thrilling 106-105 squeaker over Talk 'N Text last night in Game 2 of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Receiving the inbound pass from Rodney Santos, Menk faked to the right, caught Mark Telan flatfooted and drove in for the game winner that gave the Kings a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship series.

Willie Miller, the first homegrown cager to register a triple-double in the Finals since Danny Ildefonso in the 2001 Commissioner's Cup, missed an off-balanced, desperation jumper at the final buzzer.

Miller pumped in 24 points on top of 10 rebounds and 10 assists in 42 minutes of action.

TAULAVA

EALA

Forfeited

Though the Phone Pals convincingly won Game 1, 89-71, the league forfeited the series opener in favor of the Kings after Talk 'N Text insisted on fielding in Asi Taulava.

Taulava played on the strength of a Quezon City court order but commissioner Noli Eala maintained the Talk 'N Text slotman was still ineligible under league rules.

TNT officials finally decided to withdraw Taulava before Game 2, allowing Menk to dominate the Phone Pals with a 27-point, 11-rebound performance.

Five other Kings scored in double figures with Mark Caguioa and Rodney Santos adding 18 and 15 points apiece.

Most of the teams which had gone 2-0 in a best-of-seven series went on to win the championship. However, the Phone Pals were the last team to break a 0-2 deficit and win the title against the Coca-Cola Tigers in the 2003 All-Filipino Cup.

Eala invoked a rule of the PBA stating that any team which utilizes a player not eligible in accordance with league regulations and regardless of the actual final score is bound to lose such game to the opposing team.

"Thus, Game 1 of the championship series held last Sunday is hereby declared forfeited in favor of the Barangay Ginebra Kings," said Eala.

"It is hoped that with this decision, the two teams shall abide by the decision of the commissioner and that Mr. Taulava will no longer be utilized for the remainder of the series," he added.

This marks the first time since the 2000 All-Filipino semifinals that a game was forfeited. Tanduay lost a game it had won also because of players lacking citizenship credentials.

The last time a championship match was forfeited was during the 1990 First Conference showdown between Shell and Ginebra, when the Kings, then coached by Robert Jaworski, walked out and failed to finish the game.

Protest upheld

Eala upheld the protest of Barangay Ginebra by supporting the arguments of Ginebra governor Arnaldo Africa that Talk 'N Text violated PBA rules on three occasions.

Eala said Taulava cannot be placed in the reserved list of Talk 'N Text since only eligible players can be elevated to active playing status.

He added the court order against the PBA is not yet final and executory since the PBA had filed a motion for reconsideration immediately after the decision of the Quezon City court came out urging the league to lift the suspension on Taulava.

Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas said management strongly disagreed with the decision of the commissioner but had decided not to field Taulava last night.

'Unreasonable decision'

"In the interest of the league and the public, the Talk 'N Text management has decided to continue with the championship games despite the unreasonable decision of the PBA commissioner," said Vargas.

Talk 'N Text is set to elevate its case to the Board of Governors, which, PBA chair Buddy Encarnado said, would act on it with finality probably within the week.

The scores:

GINEBRA 106—Menk 27, Caguioa 18, Santos 15, Seigle 13, Salvacion 12, Adducul 11, Dimaunahan 8, Noble 2, Valenzuela 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 105—Miller 24, Telan 22, Pablo 19, Alapag 12, De Ocampo 12, Gelig 9, Belano 6, Camaso 1, Salangsang 0, Ravena 0.

Quarters: 35-32, 67-54, 89-78, 106-105.

WELCOAT'S Jay-R Reyes (right) foils a shot by Montaña's Jondan Salvador in Game 1. RYAN LIM

Welcoat guns for No. 2 against Montaña today

GAME TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
(Game 2 of best-of-five finals)
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Welcoat

COACH Caloy Garcia knows that the Welcoat Paintmasters can't play catch up all the time.

"I've been telling the team that from the jump ball, we have to be consistent," said Garcia after his Paintmasters staged another spirited comeback versus the Montaña Jewels to claim Game 1 of the PBL Open Championship finals, 73-65, last Tuesday.

The Paintmasters have shown several times in this conference that they have the mettle to turn crucial games to their favor.

Although the wins may have been thrilling, Garcia prefers that his team do away with this habit when they battle the Jewels in Game 2 of the best-of-five finals at 3:30 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

"The championship is on the line and we should have no time to relax," said Garcia. "The series is not yet over. We've only won Game 1 and Montaña is capable of bouncing back."

Historically, though, Welcoat has an advantage. In the last five championships, only one team failed to bag the title after winning Game 1.

But right now, the Jewels would rather focus on leveling the series.

"We have to make major adjustments in our defensive rotation to stop Welcoat's inside strength," said Jewels coach Robert Sison. "We have to bounce back strong. We relaxed in the third quarter (of Game 1) that's why they were able to get the momentum."

And it's indeed an accurate assessment of the Jewels, who seemed poised for an easy Game 1 victory. Montaña posted an early double-digit lead, 21-9, in the first period and continued to keep Welcoat at bay by halftime.

But a huge third-quarter Montaña collapse allowed the Paintmasters to outscore the Jewels, 30-9.

Save for Alex Compton, who finished with 20 points, the Jewels got poor performances from their big-name players.

Jon Dan Salvador, one of the leading candidates for the Most Valuable Player award, delivered his lowest output of the conference. He scored only seven points in a woeful 20-percent field goal shooting and 38-percent free throw shooting.

Anthony Washington, however, played his usual strong game with 18 points and 16 rebounds to lead Welcoat's second-half charge. Veteran forward Chester Tolomia added 15 markers.

And while Welcoat got a boost from its bench players' combined 30-point performance, Montaña got only 13 points from its supporting cast. *Jasmine W. Payo*

PSC gets the same, old budget

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SENATE yesterday approved the same budget of P104 million the Philippine Sports Commission received the last two years.

While the PSC was spared from the budget cuts other agencies suffered, PSC officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez said this year's allocation included the P30 million reserved for repairs of facilities that will host events in the Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

"It now appears that this year's budget is the lowest for the past three years because we only have P74 million for operational expenses," Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

The PSC caretaker said they are looking for other source of funds and will review some of the agency's existing contracts to find ways to make ends meet.

But one thing going for the PSC, according to Ramirez, is the cooperation of some 40 national sports associations, which have agreed to a three-month moratorium of their receivables from the agency.

"Fortunately, with the unity of the NSAs, we can still get by," added Ramirez.

The NSAs are also getting badly needed funds for the coming SEAG campaign from the P150 million raised by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo from the country's top businessmen and corporations recently.

Aside from the General Appropriations Act, the PSC also gets an average of P25 million monthly from the National Sports Development Fund obtained from different government financial institutions like the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

On top of the PSC's agenda for SEAG-related repairs is the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium which needs additional seats and roofing aside from the giant electronic scoreboard.

The Ninoy Aquino Stadium, site of the gymnastics event, will have to undergo a major face-lift after its flooring was damaged by floods several years ago. The tennis center also needs to be repaired at an estimated cost of P12 million.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Ababa wrests 6-stroke lead after 36 holes /A20

■ Francis leads Magic anew /A22

■ Morales steps up training /A21

JENNIFER GARNER
BORN TO FIGHT
TRAINED TO KILL
ELEKTRA
MARVEL
FROM THE FORCES THAT BROUGHT YOU X-MEN
NOW SHOWING

NBA EVERYWHERE!
NBA RADIO
NBA RPN
PHOENIX SUNS vs MINNESOTA T'WOLVES
NBA TV on SOLAR SPORTS 9:00 am replay 9 pm
NBA on RPN
TORONTO RAPTORS @ INDIANA PACERS 7:30 pm
NBA RADIO
HOUSTON ROCKETS @ PHILADELPHIA SIXERS 8:00 am

PAL Interclub returns to Bacolod, lures record field

BACOLOD—Sugarlandia is once more the scene of local golf's most storied tournament when the Philippine Airlines Interclub stages its annual championship here later this month.

The 58th edition of the regular Men's Interclub, universally acknowledged as the national clubs championship of the Philippines, will be played from March 2 to 5.

It will be preceded by the 19th staging of the Seniors Interclub, a separate tournament for players 55 years old and above, from Feb. 25 to 27.

A record number of teams—74 in the men's and 72 in the seniors—have signed up for the tournament. This is the largest field in the history of the PAL Interclub, surpassing by two entries last year's attendance in Cagayan de Oro, where 74 men's and 70 seniors clubs played.

The roster includes a combined 58 international teams in both division, also the most ever, hailing from the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

Making their Interclub debut are clubs from Las Vegas in the men's Regular and Mindanao State University in the seniors category. Teams from Taiwan and British Columbia, which took a leave last year, are returning to seniors play.

This year's competition, dubbed "Go for Gold," will be jointly played on the sugar-growing province's two premier golf courses—the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in downtown Bacolod City and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in nearby Murcia.

Both par-70 layouts have staged the Interclub many times in the past. In fact, this is the 15th time Bacolod and its neighboring towns will host the tournament, second only to the Interclub's former home base Cebu.

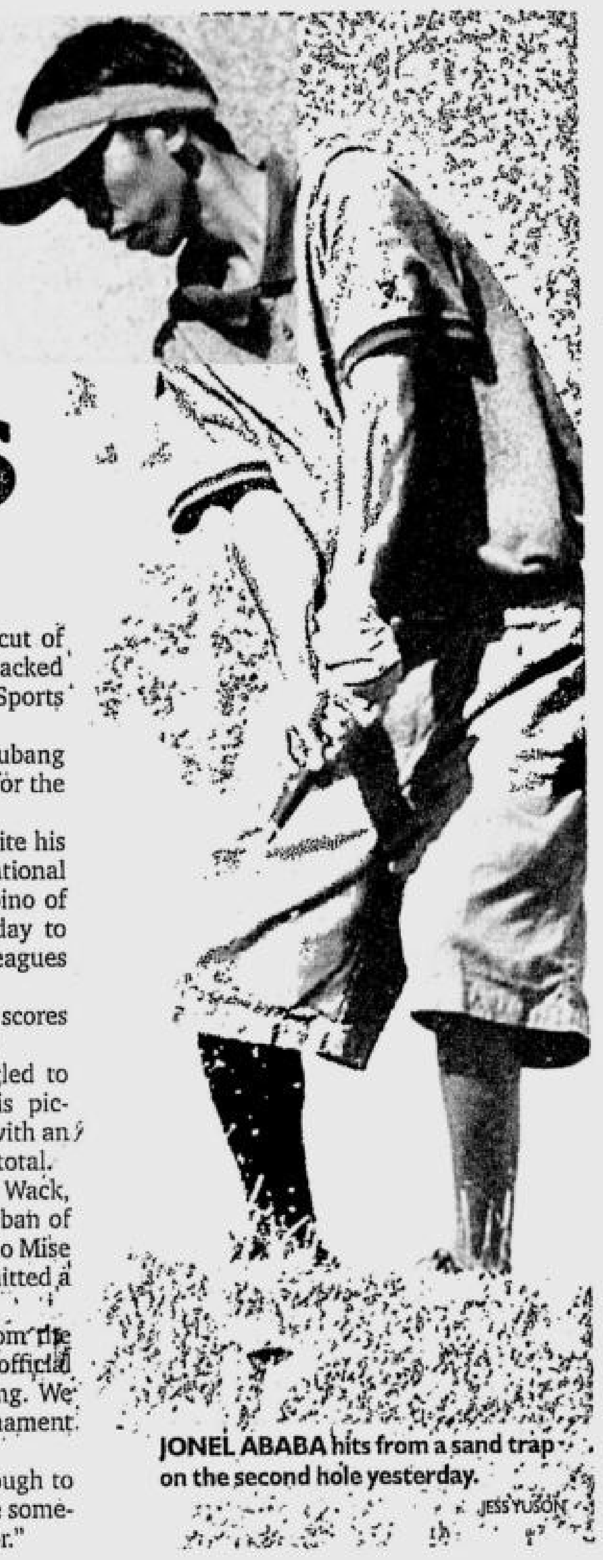
The 58th PAL Interclub is backed by major sponsors Airbus, GE Aircraft Engines, Boeing, Mastercard International, Globe Platinum, Joe 92.3, Royal Caribbean International and People Asia.

The corporate sponsors are Radio Mindanao Network, Premier Wine and Spirits, Fortune Tobacco and 96.3 WRock. Other backers include RJ Broadcasting Network, INQ7.net, Asia Brewery and Century Park Hotel.

"We have always enjoyed playing in Bacolod. The warm reception and strong support of our Negrense friends, coupled with the superb condition of the host courses, should make for a successful tournament," said Interclub chair Domingo T. Duerme Jr.

Del Monte and Luisita will defend their titles in the men's and seniors divisions, respectively, in Bacolod.

Ababa wrests 6-stroke lead after 36 holes



JONEL ABABA hits from a sand trap on the second hole yesterday.

JESS YUSON

By Musong Castillo

CALATAGAN, Batangas—Jonel Ababa, a skinny, frail-looking 20-year-old from Davao, solved Calatagan's fast greens and the winds that bedeviled the field to shoot a level 72 and wrest a commanding lead halfway through the National Caddies Open.

The new leader actually had an under-par card going to the last hole, but a faulty chip left him with a 15-foot par putt he missed to settle for a six-stroke lead over Jerome Malaga heading into the third round of this event presented by the FG Sports Foundation and Pagcor.

Malaga showed just a shade of his first-round consistency and signed for a 79 for 155, one ahead of Mario Labajo, Matina's only representative here, who churned out a second straight 78 for 156.

"I putted pretty well today, though I could not hit the one on 18," said Ababa in Filipino.

A nephew of the Apo-based Ababa brothers Gil, Eddie and Cesar, Jonel's only bogey on the 18th nullified his lone birdie coming on the long par-4 fifth.

Ricardo Bustamante, tied for second at the start of the day, limped home with an 80 after two double bogeys and is now alone in fourth at 157.

Three players tied for fifth with 158 totals—Wack Wack's Antonio Depelo (74), Joseph Labajo (77) of Valley and Rodrigo Marabe (77) of Bacolod.

Only 41 players made the halfway cut of 169 in this 72-hole tournamennt also backed by San Miguel, Nike and the Philippine Sports Commission.

The surviving field travels to Canlubang early today to tackle the North course for the third 18.

"He is capable of shooting low, despite his size," former caddies champion and national team member Jay Bayron said in Filipino of Jonel. Jay has been here since Monday to cheer brother Rufino and former colleagues at Apo Golf.

"He is one guy who shoots under-par scores in Apo, and that is a very tough course."

Rufino groped for form and struggled to find the fairways and greens of this picturesque but tough layout, stumbling with an 82 to drop to solo 14th spot with a 161 total.

Veteran Ruben dela Rosa of Wack Wack, Jessie Marcelo of Aguinaldo, Elmer Sabah of Apo Golf all shot 77s and joined Ricardo Mise of Lanang at 159 for eighth. Mise submitted a 78.

"We got a tremendous response from the golf clubs all over the country," said an official NCO statement. "It is very encouraging. We look forward to an even bigger tournament next year.

"Those who were not fortunate enough to make it all the way this year now have something to look forward to and prepare for."

Manila upgrading its sports facilities

MANILA has started the renovation and improvement of sports facilities in preparation for events and programs lined up this year by the city government's sports arm—the Manila Sports Council (Masco).

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has ordered the refurbishment of the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate which will boast a multi-purpose gymnasium, outdoor basketball and volleyball park, swimming pool, and children's playground.

According to Atienza, the ongoing work on the San Andres facility is part of Manila's continuing effort of improving sports and recreation venues for the youth in line with the city government's Buhayin ang Maynila program.

Atienza added that renovation of the Del Pan Sports Complex in San Nicolas, the Dapitan Sports Complex in Sampaloc, and the Patricia Sports Complex in Hermosa has already been finished, while plans for the improvement of the Tondo Sports Complex in Sto. Nino has been finalized.

Masco chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza said the massive infrastructure program on sports facilities is also in preparation for the staging of the 4th Manila Youth Games (MY Games) from April 17-24 and the 1st MY Games National Invitational from Sept. 29–Oct. 2, wherein athletes from other local government units nationwide may participate.

SPORTSWATCH

San Antonio de Padua spikers prevail

DEFENDING champion San Antonio de Padua College of Pila, Laguna, and De La Salle Lipa blasted their rivals last Sunday to lead the high school (competitive) division of the 10th Milo Best Women's Volleyball League (WVL) at the Ateneo Grade School courts in Quezon City. SAPC blanked New Era University, 25-0, 25-0, while La Salle whipped JASMS, 25-18, 25-6, to make it three straight in groups A and B, respectively. De La Salle Lipa also surged ahead in the elementary (competitive) level by beating Miriam College, 25-17, 25-13, for its third straight win. Poveda Learning Center triumphed twice for a 5-0 record.

Ladies Federation League blasts off

EIGHT clubs will see action in the inaugural Ladies Federation League blasting off today. Opening matches will see Manila Golf Club hosting Tagaytay Highlands and Riviera playing Orchard at home in Group I and Forest Hills facing Manila Southwoods and Valley colliding with Sta. Elena in Group II. Ogie Manalo, president of the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils., said they decided to put up a league for the lady members of golf clubs due to the success of the Federation League for men. The series will follow the home-and-away format. The teams will be divided into two groups with the top two advancing to the crossover semis. The winners will then dispute the crown also via home-and-away duel.

Siso siblings shine in junior tennis

CEBU—Sally Mae Siso blanked Crissianne Kintanar, 6-0, 6-0, in the girls' 12-under then edged elder sister Sally Dine Siso, 6-3, 6-4, in the girls' 14-under division to become a double titlist in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop Monday here at the Cebu Country Club. Bernardine Siso downed Christian Cabahug, 6-2, 6-4, in the boys' 12-under class as the Siso clan dominated the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Adidas. The Siso siblings shared the limelight with Jacob Lagman who downed John Gelbolingo, 6-0, 6-2, in the unisex 10-under; Jayvee Canoy, a 6-2, 6-0 victor past Rionel Villar in the boys' 14-under; Jin Quirubin, who nipped Macy Solon, 5-7, 6-3, 10-7, in the girls' 16-under and 6-3, 6-4 in the girls' 18-under.

Seoul hosting Asian X Games 2005

SEOUL—The X Games, the world's signature action sports competition, will make its Korean debut as this city hosts the Asian X Games 2005 from May 26-29. Presented by Kia Motors, the event marks the seventh X Games to be held in Asia since 1998. The course will feature Aggressive In-line Skating, Skateboard, Bicycle Stunt, Sport Climbing, Wakeboarding and MotoX. The athletes will be competing for over $110,000 in prize money and bragging rights as top dog in all of Asia.

National women's cage team tryouts

PLAYERS who wish to become members of the national women's basketball team to this year's Southeast Asian Games are invited to a series of tryouts starting today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Newly appointed head coach Raymond Celis is inviting cagers from high school and collegiate leagues in line with the Basketball Association of the Philippines' thrust of giving young players the chance of playing for the country under its long-range development program. This week's sessions, which last until Saturday, start at 7 a.m. until noon. Next week, tryouts will be held daily from Monday to Friday at 7 a.m.

Fiba-Asia men's tourney SCOOP topic

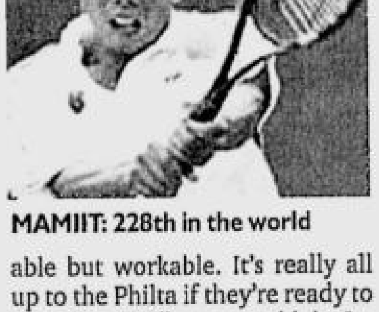
THE COUNTRY'S bid to host the 2007 FIBA-Asia men's basketball championship (formerly Asian Basketball Confederation) will be discussed at the resumption of the SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session tomorrow at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Malate. Go Teng Kok, Basketball Association of the Philippines project director, leads the guests list. Go, also the president of the athletics and chess associations, will be accompanied by BAP secretary general Graham Lim and some members of the BAP board. Session starts at 11 a.m.

GUESTS & PARTICIPANT
To The 2005 National Triathlon Champion
TRAP

NATIONAL TRIATHLETES: The RP team and coaching staff joined the recent National Triathlon Championship in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. TRAP president Tom Carrasco Jr. (left) poses with his wards led by elite champions Arland Macasieb and Sandra Araullo. With them is Bayawan Vice Mayor Rene Gaudiel.

Mamiit wants to play for RP team

By Jong Arcano



MAMIIT: 228th in the world

FIL-AMERICAN Cecil Mamiit remains open to the idea of playing for the Philippines in this year's Southeast Asian Games for a price.

The Los Angeles-born Mamiit, whose parents are both from Sariaya, Quezon, relayed to former national player Randy Villanueva in a recent e-mail that he's willing to don the national colors come December if the Philippine Tennis Association or a sponsor can assure him of some financial help.

"Cecil has floated a figure which I think is not just affordable but workable. It's really all up to the Philta if they're ready to negotiate," Villanueva told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The corporate supporters of the SEAG project, according to Villanueva, can easily take care of whatever financial needs to secure the 28-year-old Mamiit's SEAG stint.

Villanueva said Mamiit is good for three gold medals since he is also an effective doubles player.

With a player in the mold of Mamiit, who's campaigning in the ATP Tour, the Philta need not look for a more-seasoned bet for the SEA Games.

Mamiit owns memorable victories against top players, including Andre Agassi of the US. A former US NCAA All-America, Mamiit is currently ranked 228th in the world singles rankings and reached as high as 72nd back in 1999.

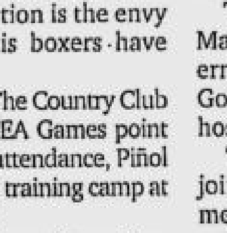
What could clear the way for a gold medal haul by Mamiit in the SEAG is the reported decision of Thailand sensation Paradorn Srichapan to leave stints in the SEAG and Asian Games to the other members of the national team.

If ever it gets Mamiit to play, the Philta needs to secure a Filipino passport for him just like the other Fil-Ams being considered to maximize the country's chances of winning gold medals.

Mamiit played for the University of Southern California-Los Angeles like golfing superstar Jennifer Rosales.

'Govs for Gold'

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

WHEN Manny "Pareng Gob" Piñol, the feisty governor of North Cotabato, leaves the country next month, it will be for two reasons. One, to be at ringside when Manny Pacquiao fights Eric Morales in Las Vegas on March 19. Two, to proceed to Cuba after the fight.

"I've always been a boxing buff and, for that matter, I never miss any opportunity to watch a big fight, especially if our own Manny Pacquiao himself is doing the fighting," said *Pareng* Gob, who was a hard-hitting Tempo sports columnist in the '80s before he entered politics and became mayor of M'lang in 1995. He ran for governor and won in 1998 and is now on his third and last term as North Cotabato's governor.

Even as he wrote his well-loved column "Right Straight" back then twice a week with clockwork efficiency, he also did TV sportscasting on the side on some of the country's most memorable fights. In fact, presently, he has his own TV boxing show weekly at NBN 4.

But what's this trip to Cuba after the fight? Drink tequila and then dance the salsa with Fidel?

"I'd love to do that but seriously, I will look for a coach to handle boxers that we're now training for future international fights," said Piñol, whose "Pareng Gob" weekly radio program is a hit in Mindanao for its straightforward manner of addressing the province's problems. "I still believe that the Cubans are the best when it comes to training boxers with medal hopes in the Olympic Games."

While his love for boxing is legend, his passion to translate words into action is the envy of many. Already, eight of his boxers have donned the national colors.

In a round of golf recently at The Country Club hosted by Benny Gopez, with SEA Games point man Obet Pagdanganan also in attendance, Piñol bared his plan to put up a boxing training camp at the foot of Mt. Apo in Mindanao.

"It's cool there, no pollution, no distraction, perfect for training for anyone determined to make a name in boxing," he said.

The backbone of this huge boxing program is the "Govs for Gold" that *Pareng* Gob has penciled a while back.

I can see a big potential in the "Govs for Gold" project.

For one, it's got money: Each governor has pledged P100,000 a year to bankroll the program. Since we have a total of 79 governors, that'd be a total of P7.9 million a year to finance the scheme.

For another, nobody I know can dispute the ability of our governors to realize the desired results of a vision as noble as the "Govs for Gold."

I've seen Piñol work up close for more than a decade (I was also writing the sports column "Dugout" for Tempo during the years that he was with Tempo); his work ethic is simply amazing. Once he sets his mind to something, he'll never stop until he achieves his objective. Piñol is more than Mel Gibson the Brave Heart: A good boxer himself in his youth (he is one of 11 sons of a daughter-less schoolteacher), Piñol fights to the last drop of his blood. Always.

The "Govs for Gold" will be launched on March 4 in Tagbilaran City, where Bohol governor Erico Aumentado, the president of the Governors League of the Philippines, will play host to the nation's 78 other governors.

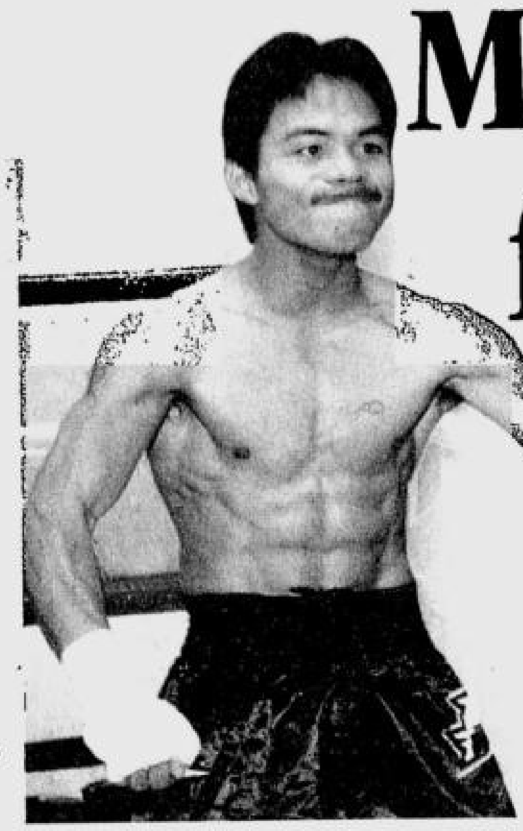
"Please save that day in your calendar and join us to celebrate the birth of a historic moment in Philippine sports," said Piñol.

I will keep that in mind, *Pareng* Gob.

***

FASTBREAK. It's Zenaida Baucan, not Bancan. My apologies to Aida, "the crush *ng bayan* during our time," according to Hermie Rivera…*Balikbayans* Pino "Kanor" Tengasantos and Dan E. Nino, one of my dearest friends from our Beatles-laced days in high school, will say their farewell piece in a bash tonight at Kamayan West in Quezon City. Among the invited guests are Boying "Wali" Estrada, Dave "Shalopatit" Vela, General Romeo Alamillo, Tom Garcia, Mike S. Ramos, Dr. Jimmy Estrada, Julian "Comelec" Apostol and Boni M. Sison. All are members of KM (Kaaroy Mangatarem).

Morales steps up training for Pacquiao fight



PACQUIAO: Hitting peak form

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MEXICAN Erik "El Terrible" Morales is now training in the mountains of Mexico's Central Ceremonial Otomi as he braces for a tough bout against Filipino idol Manny Pacquiao on March 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Morales is expected to spend a little more than six weeks at the Otomi mountains to get enough high-altitude training.

The former three-division world champion has been holed up at the Otomi mountains working out in spartan-like conditions accompanied by trainers Oswaldo Alvarado and Fernando Fernandez, a substitute for his father-trainer who earlier begged off from getting up the mountains due to his diabetes problems.

Morales is scheduled to start rigid sparring sessions today with sparmates brought in from Tijuana and California.

"Morales has kept his 45 minutes of road work per day. This part of the training with the mountain stages has already begun.

Later, he will run in flat lands to acquire velocity," said a trusted insider from the Morales camp, as quoted by a leading Mexican boxing website.

In-between training, Morales spends time watching videos of past fights of Pacquiao, who is also training religiously at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles under the guidance of trainer Freddie Roach.

PHOTO BY BOXLATINO

ERIK Morales runs the mountains of Otomi in Mexico to prepare for his mammoth showdown with Manny Pacquiao on March 19.

Legends get chance to prove worth vs Tigresses

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Letran vs La Salle
5 p.m.—UST vs PSC

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission coach Ramon "Tatz" Suzara got what he wanted for a semifinal opponent in University of Santo Tomas. Now it's time to prove his point.

Believing that they can take the Tigresses better than the La Salle Lady Archers, the Lady Legends try to avenge their two losses to the reigning champions at the start of the Final Four of the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum today.

UST, which beat La Salle to capture the inaugural crown of the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza last year, nipped PSC in a pair of five-setters in the double-round elims and will set out as the slight favorite in their 5 p.m. encounter.

La Salle and Letran start their own best-of-three series at 3 p.m. with the Lady Archers out to sustain their stirring 11-game win streak to the semis and, hopefully, to the finals of the tournament co-presented by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

Admission is free with the La Salle-Letran match to be aired at 8 tonight on IBC-13. The UST-PSC encounter will be shown tomorrow, also starting at 8 p.m.

"It's going to be an exciting game," said Suzara, who said before the semifinals that his team has better chances against UST than elims topnotcher and streaking La Salle.

UST mentor August Sta. Maria said they are more than ready to take on the Legends.

"Narinig ko na gusto nga nila kaming makalaban sa Final Four and I told my players about it. Let's just see what happens, it's going to be exciting again," said Sta. Maria, whose squad is loaded with solid hitters in Roxanne Pimentel, Kate Co Yu Kang, Venus Bernal, Rubie de Leon and first conference MVP Mary Jean Balse.

Beating the España-based netters, however, is easier said than done since PSC is down 0-2 against the former in their head-to-head duel losing, 25-18, 16-25, 25-17, 14-25, 9-15, last Dec. 7, and 19-25, 28-26, 18-25, 25-20, 12-15 last Jan. 16.

One thing that could go against the Lady Legends, composed of members of the team that gave the country its last Southeast Asian Games championship in the 1993 edition of the biennial meet in Singapore, is the absence of power-spiking Theresa dela Rosa, who was sidelined after sustaining an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury.

"Although we're a player down, I feel we're still capable of playing as strong as we're doing, maybe better," Suzara said. "I have confidence in this team, it's going to be all about who's going to play with a bigger heart."

Filipino lawn bowlers seek 2 SEAG golds

LAWN bowls, a precursor of bowling, returns to the Manila Southeast Asian Games this year.

It will be the third time that the sport will be played in the biennial meet, the first was in Brunei (1999) and the second in Malaysia (2001).

Philippine Lawn Bowls Association president Ronalyn Greenlees is confident of getting two of the four golds at stake in the Manila SEAG slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Greenlees is pinning her hopes on former world champion Carmen Anderson, a Filipino-Australian, who had expressed interest in donning the RP colors.

Anderson won the world singles championship in Lemengton, England, in 1996, the only Asian to do so since the sport was popularized by King Henry VIII of England.

Apart from Anderson, the 12-man RP team is better prepared than its first stint in the 2001 KL SEA Games, where it brought home two silvers and one bronze.

Leading the RP men's squad are 25-year-old Chris Dagpin, Leo Carreon and Angel Morales, who finished seventh in the triples event of the 2004 World Championship in London.

Dagpin, younger brother of 2001 SEAG bronze medalist Mario, took the bronze in the singles event during the 2003 Asia-Pacific Championship in Kuala Lumpur.

Also in the team are Reynaldo Samia, the training director of the Philippine Lawn Bowls Academy in Angeles City, Edmund Dagpin and Ronald Lesing, who are competing in the Tiger's Bowls on March 3-10 in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Greenlees was re-elected for another term in the PLBA election last Sunday at the Hidden Vale Sports Club in Angeles.

Also reelected were secretary general Robert Sanders, treasurer Peter O'Donnel and board members Brent Chamberlain of Nomads Sports Club and Mike Wetheridge of Cocogrove Club.

Red Lions eye title vs Blazers

VAUGH Mellendrez converted a penalty kick to lift San Beda past St. Benilde, 1-0, and give the Red Lions the second round pennant of the NCAA Season 80 Football Tournament at the Philippine Navy Football Field in Taguig.

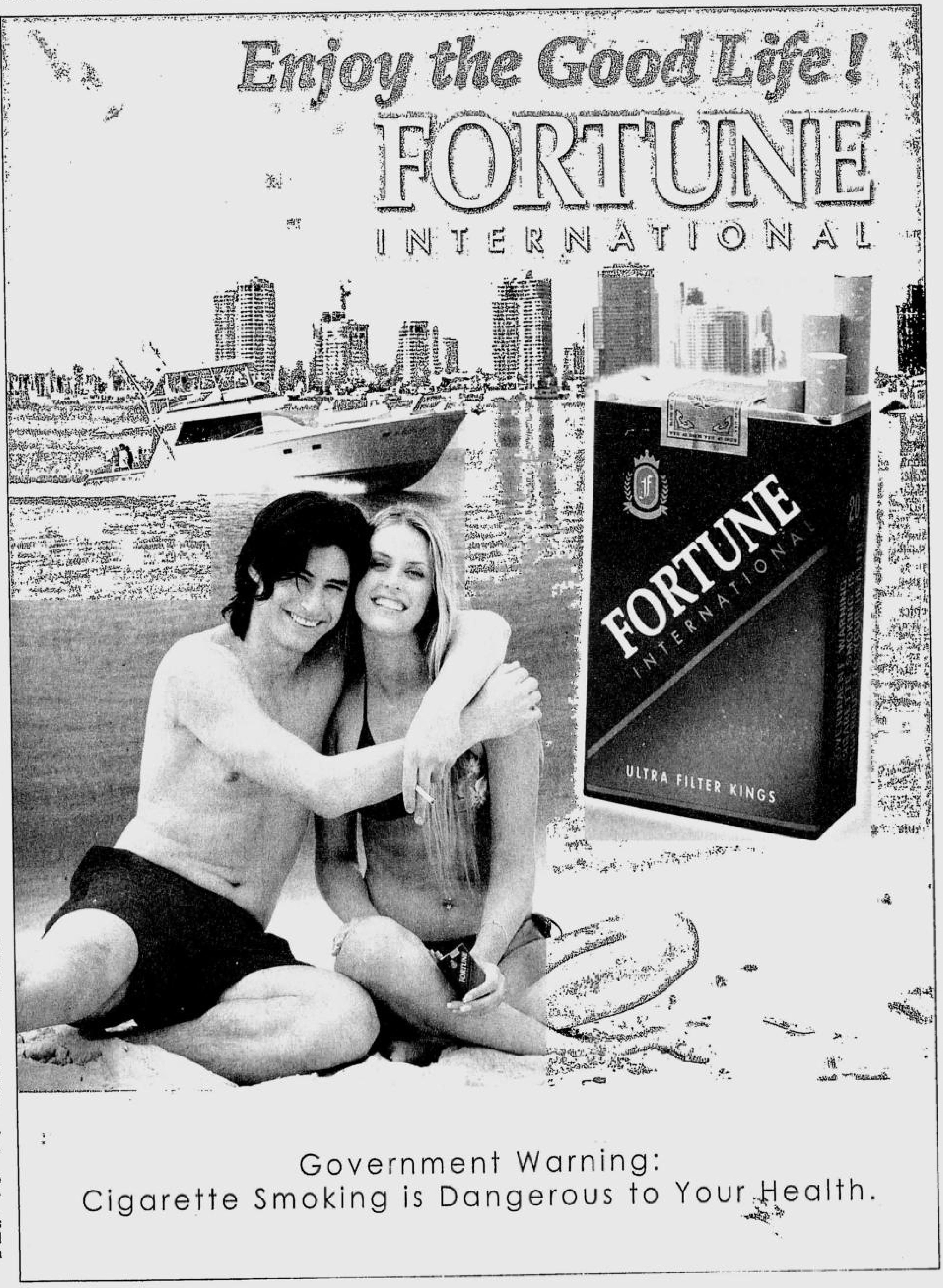
The Red Lions forged a do-or-die Final against the first-round champion CSB Blazers at the same venue today at 3 pm.

Preserving his number one status in goal scoring, Mellendrez's breakthrough one-on-one with CSB goalie Johniel Vapor came in the 80th minute as Blazer Jade Canlas fouled Bedan captain Jeremias Jiao inside the penalty box.

This is the third straight year that the senior football championship is contested by the Blazers and back-to-back titleholder Red Lions.

Mapua Institute of Technology picked up third place honors after routing Jose Rizal University, 8-0.

In the junior division, CSB-La Salle Greenhills accomplished a three-peat with an unblemished 9-win record after beating Philippine Christian University, 3-2.



Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health.

Francis leads Magic anew

Mavericks cool Heat, Bucks tame Timberwolves

ORLANDO, Florida—Steve Francis scored 30 points and tied a season high with 13 assists Tuesday as the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 105-102, to spoil LeBron James' return.

"He's very explosive, he's hard to contain and he still has tremendous upside in his game," Magic coach Johnny Davis said of Francis. "There's room for growth in his game. Tonight, even though he had more turnovers than you'd like (seven), I thought he was under control throughout the game."

Grant Hill scored 21 for the Magic, who have won seven of their last eight home games.

James finished with 28 points, seven assists and five rebounds in his first game since rolling his left ankle last Wednesday in a win over Memphis. The Cavaliers split their two games during his absence.

"I'm not going to play if I'm still thinking about (the ankle) and favoring it," said James, 10-of-20 from the field. "I feel great."

Nets 107, Bulls 97

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jacque Vaughn moved into the starting lineup and tied his career high with 23 points, and Jason Kidd narrowly missed the 62nd triple-double of his career in the Nets' victory over Chicago.

Kidd had 26 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, and Vince Carter had 31 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Nets, who won their season-high fourth in a row.

Pistons 105, Wizards 96

In Washington, Chauncey Billups scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and the Pistons closed with a 20-11 run to beat Washington and earn its fourth straight win.

Billups helped break open a close game with a pair of three-point efforts: He converted a steal and layup into a three-point play with 5:10 to go, then hit a double-clutch 3-pointer at the shot clock buzzer with 4:29 left to put the Pistons ahead, 92-85.

Tayshaun Prince added 25 points, Richard Hamilton scored 23, and Rasheed Wallace had 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Pistons beat the Wizards for the eighth straight time on the road.

Grizzlies 108, Suns 97

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jason Williams scored 19 points and had eight assists to lift the short-handed Grizzlies over Phoenix.

Memphis had seven players score in double figures and shot 12-of-23 from 3-point range in ending the Suns' five-game winning streak. Memphis has won three straight and five of six.

Mavericks 109, Heat 104

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse got rolling in the final five minutes, just about the time the Mavericks defense found a way to throttle Shaquille O'Neal and Miami.

The Heat, who had won three straight, led 97-91 and had held the Mavs to just one field goal in the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter when everything changed on both ends of the court.

Bucks 91, T'Wolves 86

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 19 points, Joe Smith added 17, and the Bucks held off Minnesota.

Toni Kukoc provided a huge lift with nine points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals in his first start in almost three seasons for the Bucks, who had lost 10 straight to the Timberwolves since winning in Minnesota on March 28, 1999.

Bobcats 109, Jazz 105

In Salt Lake City, Gerald Wallace scored 28 points and helped rally the Bobcats from an 11-point deficit to a win over Utah and its second road win in team history.

Brevin Knight added 21 points and eight assists, and Jason Kapono had 12 points for the Bobcats, who trailed 89-78 in the fourth quarter but improved to 2-19 on the road.

Andrei Kirilenko had a season-high 27 points and 10 assists for Utah.

Nuggets 96, Knicks 76

In Denver, Kenyon Martin scored a season-high 27 points, Carmelo Anthony added 19 and the Nuggets earned its third consecutive victory under new coach George Karl by beating free-falling New York.

Martin followed a 25-point game against Indiana with an 11-for-17 shooting performance to help Karl win his home debut in Denver. He received a nice ovation when he walked onto the court, then improved to 3-0 since taking over for interim coach Michael Cooper.

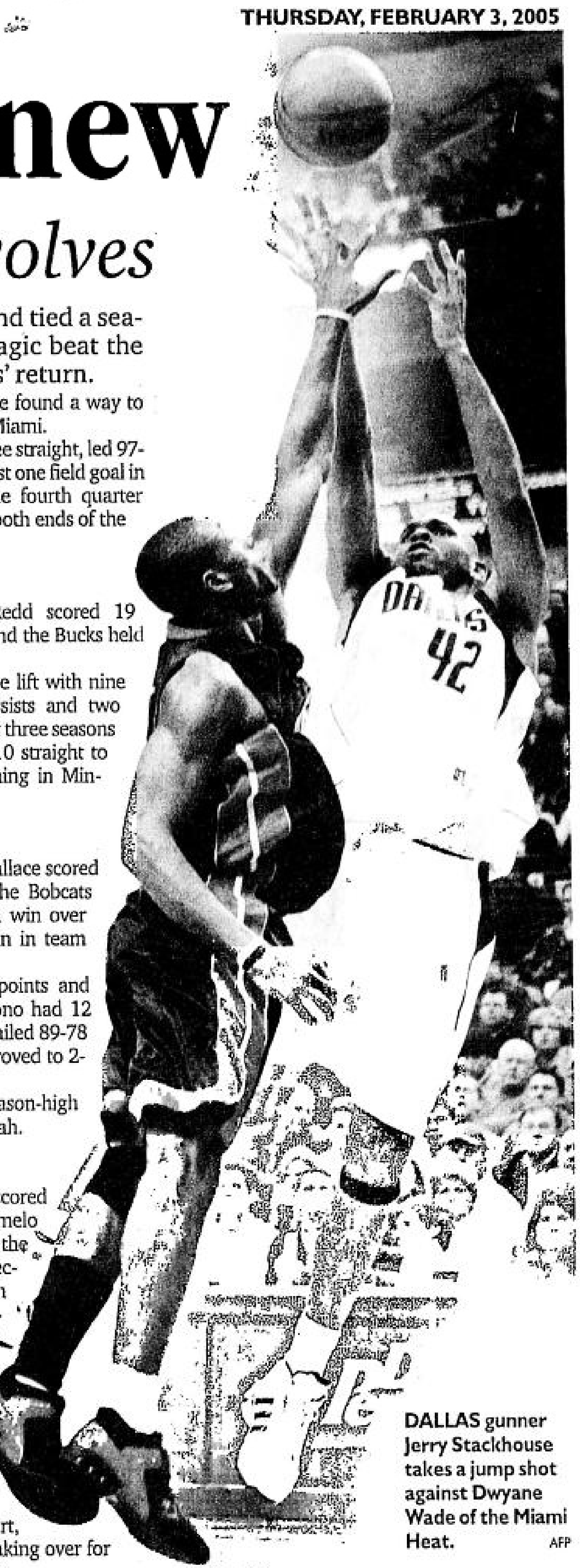
Jamal Crawford scored 20 points to lead the Knicks, who have lost 14 of 16.

SuperSonics 106, Kings 101

In Sacramento, California, Ronald Murray scored a season-high 23 points in place of ailing All-Star Ray Allen, and Seattle defeated the Kings.

Rashard Lewis added 24 points, and the Sonics finished with six players in double figures to end a four-game losing streak at Arco Arena. Seattle hadn't won in Sacramento since 2002.

Mike Bibby had 25 points, six rebounds and four assists *AP*



DALLAS gunner Jerry Stackhouse takes a jump shot against Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat. AFP

Lakers could end up losing Tomjanovich

LOS ANGELES—Rudy Tomjanovich is considering resigning as Los Angeles Lakers coach because of health reasons, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

Sports web site ESPN.com reported that Tomjanovich would step down following Tuesday night's game against Portland, a 92-79 Lakers victory.

That wasn't the case—just as spokesman John Black had said earlier in the day.

"He's considering several options and resigning is one of them. That decision has not been made," Black said.

"There won't be an announcement tonight. He won't coach tonight because he's not feeling well. This has nothing to do with cancer."

The 56-year-old Tomjanovich, who won two NBA championships with the Houston Rockets, missed the Lakers' win over Charlotte on Sunday night because of what the team said was a stomach virus. He returned to the coaching ranks this season after recovering from bladder cancer.

Black said Tomjanovich has had a sinus infection as well as the stomach virus.

"It's health-related," Black said about Tomjanovich's absence. "He loves the team and the team loves him. He's our head coach until he decides to do otherwise."

Tomjanovich did not return a phone message from The Associated Press.

Assistant coach Frank Hamblen, the only holdover from former coach Phil Jackson's staff, guided the team against the Bobcats and also coached them against the Trail Blazers.

Hamblen, a 57-year-old longtime NBA assistant, said he spoke with Tomjanovich on Monday night.

"He was OK. We did have a few laughs," Hamblen said, refusing to elaborate.

Hamblen said the only person he has spoken with about the situation is his wife.

"We're just praying that Rudy gets back. I haven't talked to Dr. Buss at all, in case something does happen. I'm just trying to do my job." Hamblen said, referring to Lakers owner Jerry Buss. *AP*

TOMJANOVICH: Health issues

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA and MUSIC MUSEUM in cooperation with Smart Buddy, Smart Gold Simply The Gold Life, mossimo present

KUH LEDESMA
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA
The Love Songs of Streisand Legrand & Groban

TICKET PRICE:
P2,500 - Orch (w/ drink)
P2,000 - Orch (w/ drink)
P1,500 - Orch (w/ drink)
P1,500 - Bal (w/ drink)
P1,000 - Orch
P500 - Bal

FEBRUARY 11, 12, 13 & 14 • 9PM at the Captain's Bar of the MANDARIN ORIENTAL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER · Jam 88.3 · 103.5 K-Lite · 92.3 · Magic 89.9 · 99.5 RT The Most Hit Music · THE REPUBLIC OF MALATE · The Good Earth Oriental Cuisine & Bar · WAVE 89.1

FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL: MANDARIN ORIENTAL 750 8888, TICKETWORLD 891 5610 / 891 9999, HEADLINE CONCEPTS 551 7253-55, MUSIC MUSEUM 721 6726 / 721 0635.

Sharapova advances

TOKYO—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova survived a slow start Wednesday to defeat Venezuelan Maria Vento-Kabchi, 7-6 (3), 6-0, in the second round of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

Sharapova, the tournament's second-seeded player, struggled in the first set before reeling off six aces, including one in the final game to close out the match at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium in 1 hour, 22 minutes.

American Lindsay Davenport is the defending champion at the $1.3 million Pan Pacific and will play her first singles match on Thursday.

In other matches, Japan's Akiko Nakamura defeated compatriot Ryoko Fuda, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, while Akiko Morigami, also from Japan, downed Maria Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain, 6-4, 6-1.

SHARAPOVA AP

Woods faces caddie loss

LONDON—Tiger Woods, who ended a PGA Tour title drought with victory at the Buick Invitational nine days ago, is likely to be without his regular caddie when he returns to action later this month.

New Zealander Steve Williams, bagman for Woods since early 1999, injured his hand in a racing car accident last Friday and is expected to need two months to make a full recovery.

Williams says he does not know when he will be able to rejoin the former world No. 1 and Woods' manager was not prepared to give any detail. *Reuters*

Generals gain finals

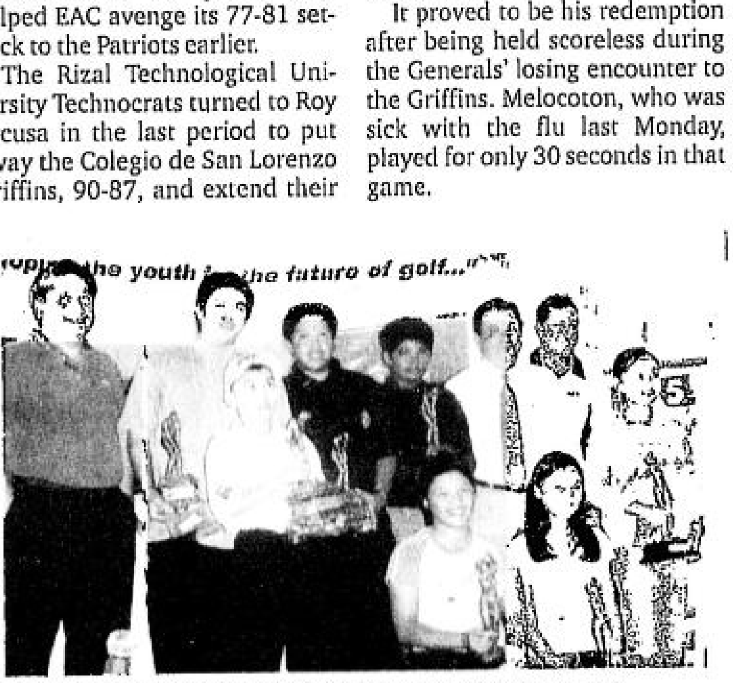
THE EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals banked on Bong Melocoton in an 81-70 win over La Salle-Dasmariñas yesterday to enter the finals of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Melocoton's 26 points also helped EAC avenge its 77-81 setback to the Patriots earlier.

The Rizal Technological University Technocrats turned to Roy Arcusa in the last period to put away the Colegio de San Lorenzo Griffins, 90-87, and extend their semis playoff for the second championship seat into a do-or-die affair on Friday at 9 a.m.

A triple from Melocoton with 4:12 left in the fourth quarter turned the tables around in favor of the Generals, who went on to stop the Patriots' final rally in the remaining time.

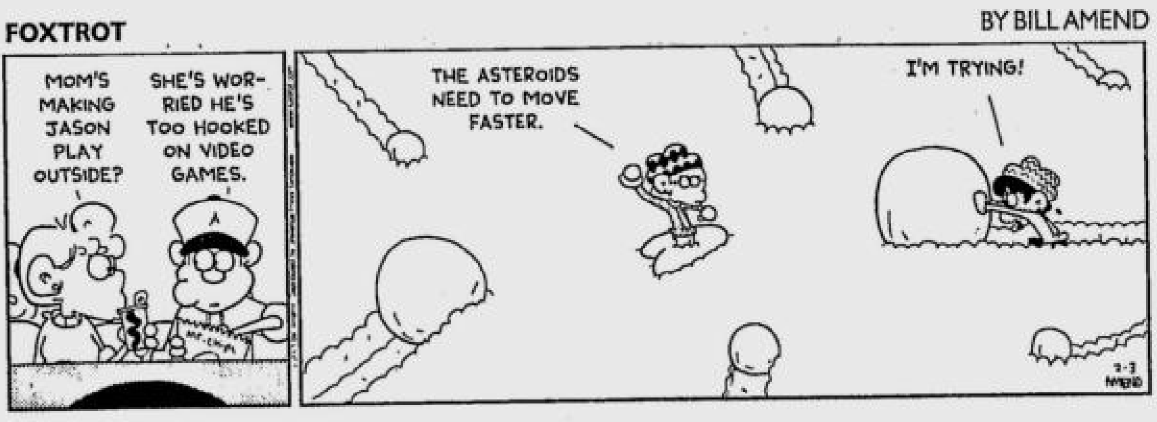
It proved to be his redemption after being held scoreless during the Generals' losing encounter to the Griffins. Melocoton, who was sick with the flu last Monday, played for only 30 seconds in that game.



SAMSUNG CHAMPS: Individual champions of the recent Samsung Interscholastics at the Tagaytay Midlands and Highlands courses are joined by Samsung's Jerry Cuarry, Jungolf president Raoul Lachica and Boy Blue Ocampo of PSMG. They are, Oliver Gan, Justin Tambunting, Wolen Superal, Remo Fueg, Crystal Superal and Beverly Mendoza. Highlights of the tourney will be shown on Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. on Sports Plus Channel.

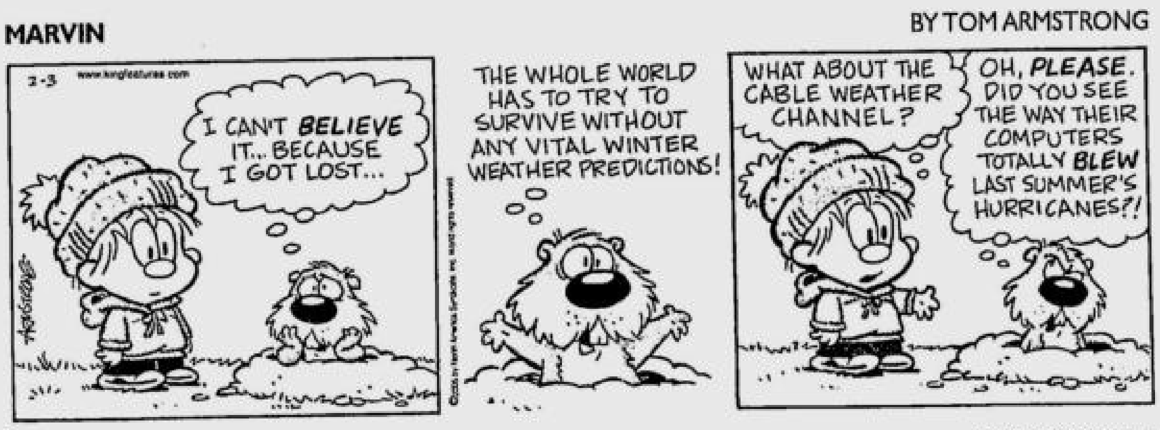
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM'S MAKING JASON PLAY OUTSIDE?
SHE'S WORRIED HE'S TOO HOOKED ON VIDEO GAMES.
THE ASTEROIDS NEED TO MOVE FASTER.
I'M TRYING!
2-3 AMEND

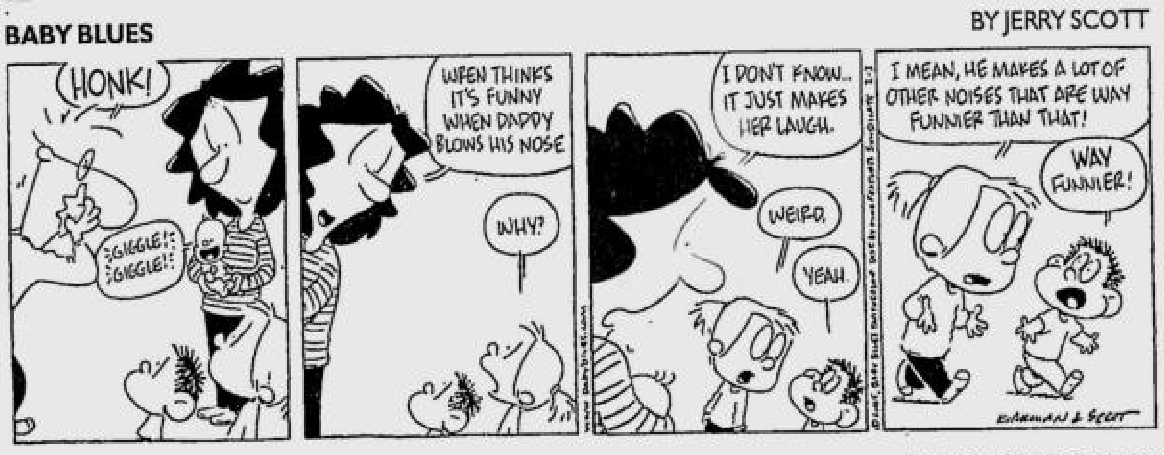
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


2-3 www.kingfeatures.com
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... BECAUSE I GOT LOST...
THE WHOLE WORLD HAS TO TRY TO SURVIVE WITHOUT ANY VITAL WINTER WEATHER PREDICTIONS!
WHAT ABOUT THE CABLE WEATHER CHANNEL?
OH, PLEASE. DID YOU SEE THE WAY THEIR COMPUTERS TOTALLY BLEW LAST SUMMER'S HURRICANES?!
ARMSTRONG

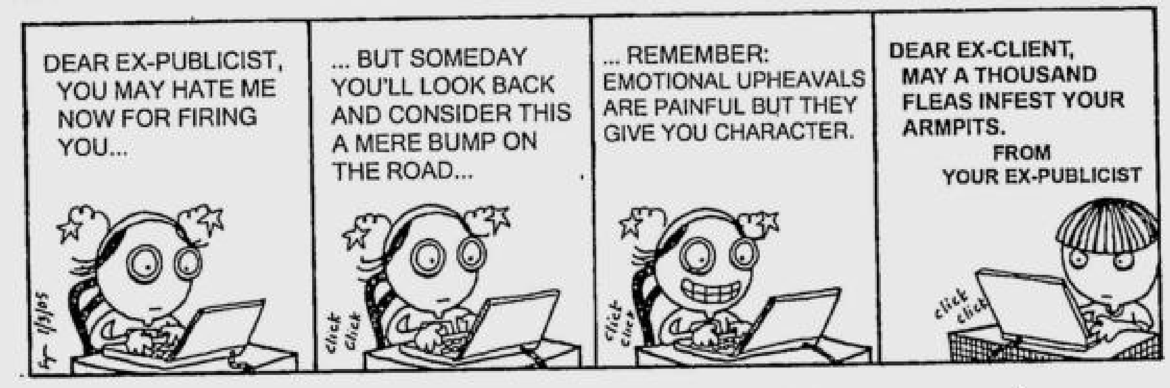
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HONK!
¡GIGGLE!! ¡GIGGLE!!
WREN THINKS IT'S FUNNY WHEN DADDY BLOWS HIS NOSE
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW... IT JUST MAKES HER LAUGH.
WEIRD.
YEAH.
I MEAN, HE MAKES A LOT OF OTHER NOISES THAT ARE WAY FUNNIER THAN THAT!
WAY FUNNIER!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DEAR EX-PUBLICIST, YOU MAY HATE ME NOW FOR FIRING YOU...
... BUT SOMEDAY YOU'LL LOOK BACK AND CONSIDER THIS A MERE BUMP ON THE ROAD...
... REMEMBER: EMOTIONAL UPHEAVALS ARE PAINFUL BUT THEY GIVE YOU CHARACTER.
DEAR EX-CLIENT, MAY A THOUSAND FLEAS INFEST YOUR ARMPITS. FROM YOUR EX-PUBLICIST
click click
click click
click click

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You tend to be a perfectionist. You have very high standards for yourself. You often master a particular technique in life. Fortunately, you're realistic about your abilities and limitations. This empowers you. You're patient, persistent and very matter-of-fact. People love your sanity. You must make some choices this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Norman Rockwell, painter; Blythe Danner, actress; Morgan Fairchild, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel very idealistic today. You probably want to help a friend. On the other hand, you might join forces with a group to help those who are in need. Do whatever you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You appear very glamorous to others today. In fact, you might even confuse people. You can easily appear to be something that you are not (if you so choose).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel very sympathetic toward people in distant places Alternatively, you might make plans to visit someplace luxurious . You want to escape somewhere—anywhere!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't bet the farm today. Be careful handling other people's money. You might be confused or go overboard about something. Be cautious.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You tend to idealize someone today in a very unrealistic but romantic way. Don't put someone on a pedestal. Ultimately, it only leads to confusion for both parties.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You want to help a co-worker today. In turn, if somebody wants to help you, you must accept. (How else can others practice generosity?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your creative impulses are fabulous today! You might also fall in love with someone. Unfortunately, this could be a pie-in-the-sky romance. Be careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're willing to spend money to make your home more beautiful in a gorgeous way. However, be tuned in to the needs of those at home. Be kind to a family member.

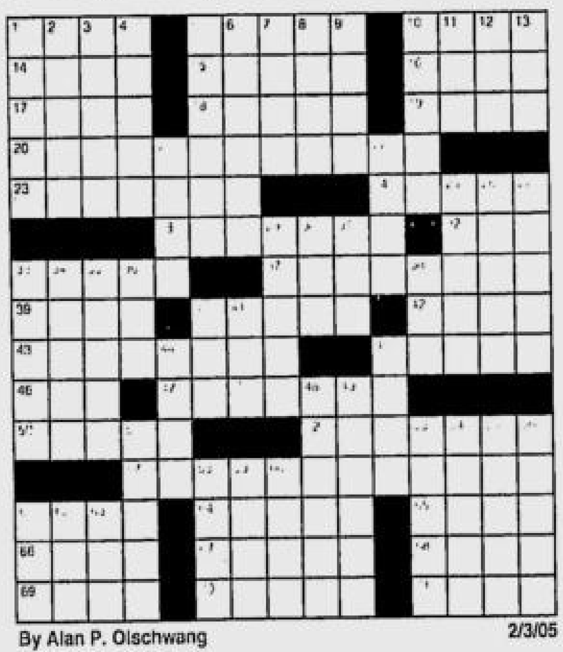
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a fuzzy day when you are easily lost in fantasy and daydreaming. You want the best for others and yourself, but are you being realistic?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might easily go overboard spending money today. You can't resist something luxurious! Actually, you should think twice before you buy anything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You seem to be masked in a cloud today. Others cannot see you clearly. They're not sure what you want or even what you're saying. (Don't make unrealistic promises to anyone.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your psychic energy is really turned on today! You feel vibes so strongly, you might be picking up heavy-metal radio through the Mercury fillings in your teeth! I'm joking, but you are definitely tuned in to the ether today.

DAILY CROSSWORD


1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14
17
20
23
39
43
46
66
69

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

2/3/05

ACROSS
1 Females of the species
5 Persian rulers
10 Rip
14 House opening?
15 Holland bulb
16 Confederate
17 Word in an ultimatum
18 Violin maker
19 Jot
20 Start of Clare Booth Luce quote
23 One at the wheel
24 Rims
28 Dilettante
32 Mine find
33 Gardner's Mason
37 Part 2 of quote
39 Swing around
40 Part 3 of quote
42 Make over
43 Part 4 of quote
45 More rational
46 Make up facts
47 Antagonistic
50 Jason's love
52 Mid-ocean
57 End of quote
61 Latin 101 verb
64 Jots
65 Palm type
66 Adolescent
67 Blabber
68 Tied
69 Editorial directive
70 Imaginary substance
71 Mark for removal

DOWN
1 Eyeglasses, informally
2 Spartan serf
3 Follow
4 Cubic meter
5 Play producer
6 Bones of upper arms
7 Jai __
8 Successful swings
9 Type of curl
10 Brought under control
11 Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
12 PC key
13 Bread buy
21 Bohemian
22 Group of gnus
25 Bridge expert
26 Wear away
27 Mexicali mister
29 Play the coquette
30 Fond du __ WI
31 Old English letter
33 Hymn of praise
34 "Dallas" matriarch
35 Adjudicated
36 Classic car
38 Period
40 Sci-fi Doctor
41 Males of the species
44 Bangkok guy
45 Appear
48 Conceive
49 "Children of a __ God"
51 Arena happening
53 Did modeling
54 Smoothly agreeable
55 Actress Georgia
56 Make amends
58 Mature
59 Legal wrong
60 Bryce Canyon location
61 UFO crew members
62 Harden
63 Comprehend

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

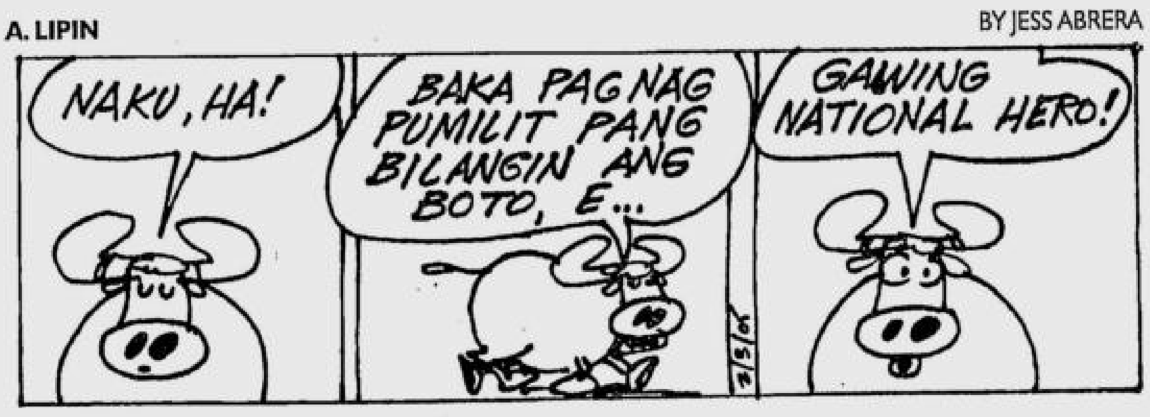
P	A	B	A		A	M	P	S		I	B	S	E	N
E	L	A	N		G	O	A	T		G	R	A	T	E
A	M	I	N		I	M	R	E		N	I	C	H	E
	A	L	I	S	T	A	I	R	C	O	O	K	E	D
		S	E	L	A		S	E	R	B		E	N	E
U	S	O		O	T	S			E	L	I	D	E	D
S	A	U	L	B	E	L	L	O	W	E	D			
A	N	T	E			U	A	W			E	T	H	E
			S	H	E	R	Y	L	C	R	O	W	E	D
C	O	S	T	A	R			S	R	O		O	P	T
A	C	T		B	I	T	S		A	L	E	C		
S	T	E	V	I	E	W	O	N	D	E	R	E	D	
T	A	R	O	T		E	L	A	L		O	N	U	S
E	N	O	L	A		E	T	T	E		S	T	E	T
R	E	L	E	T		D	I	E	S		E	S	T	E

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

2/3/05

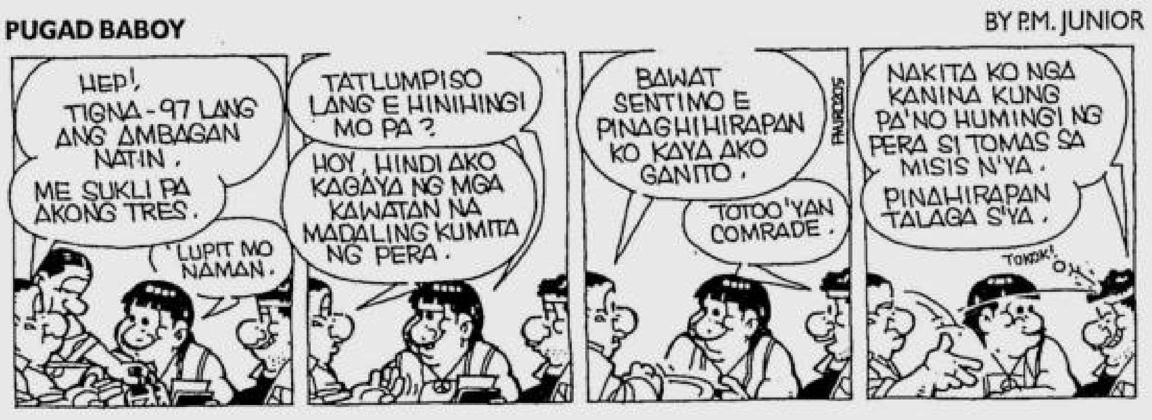
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKU, HA!
BAKA PAG NAG PUMILIT PANG BILANGIN ANG BOTO, E...
GAWING NATIONAL HERO!
2/3/05

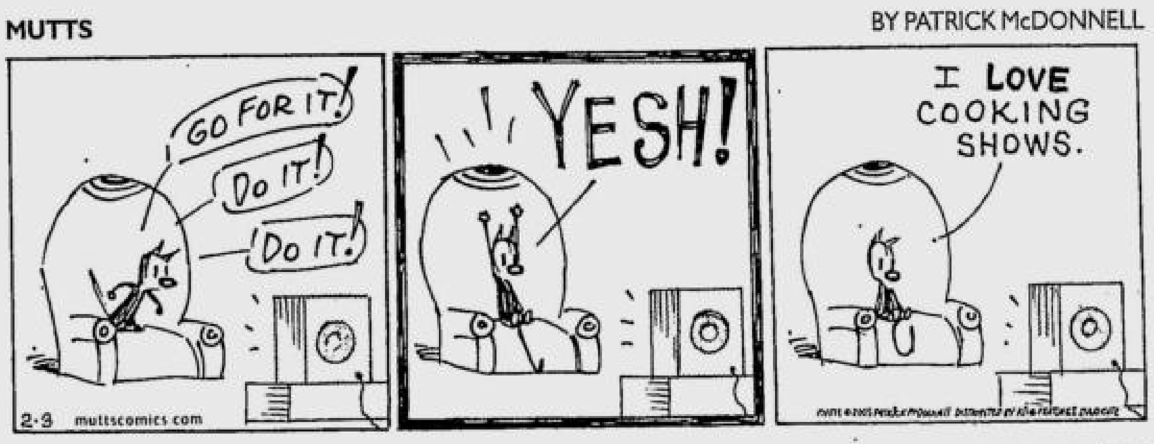
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HEP! TIGNA-97 LANG ANG AMBAGAN NATIN.
ME SUKLI PA AKONG TRES.
LUPIT MO NAMAN.
TATLUMPISO LANG E HINIHINGI MO PA?
HOY, HINDI AKO KAGAYA NG MGA KAWATAN NA MADALING KUMITA NG PERA.
BAWAT SENTIMO E PINAGHIHIRAPAN KO KAYA AKO GANITO.
TOTOO 'YAN COMRADE.
NAKITA KO NGA KANINA KUNG PA'NO HUMINGI NG PERA SI TOMAS SA MISIS N'YA.
PINAHIRAPAN TALAGA S'YA.
TOINK!
PMJR2005

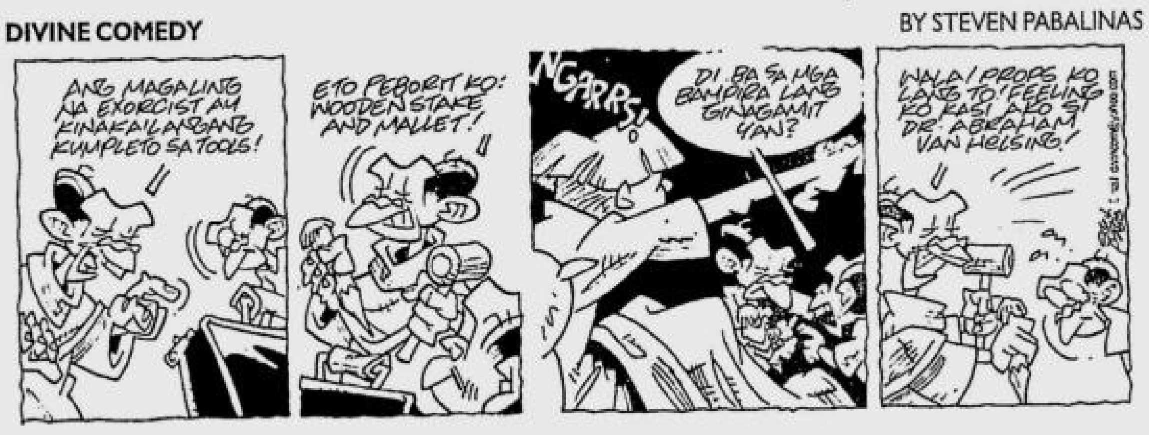
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GO FOR IT!
DO IT!
DO IT!
YESH!
I LOVE COOKING SHOWS.
2-3 muttscomics.com

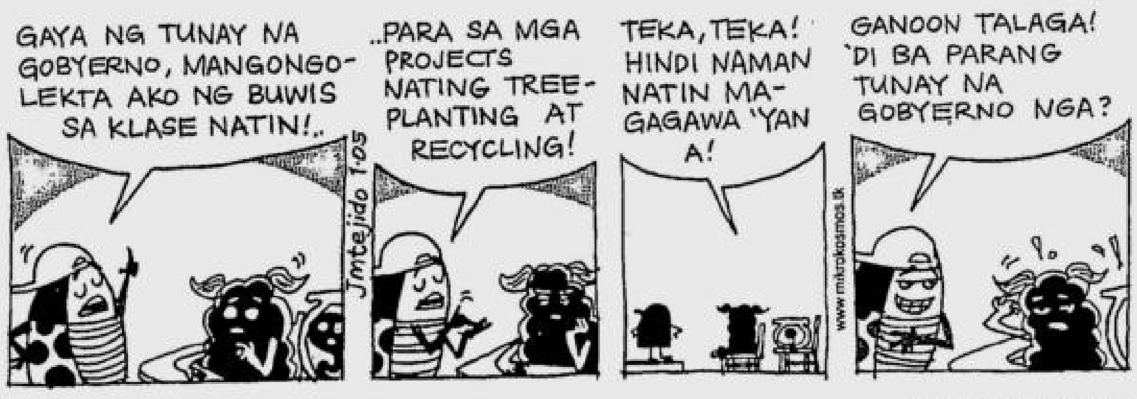
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANG MAGALING NA EXORCIST AY KINAKAILANGANG KUMPLETO SA TOOLS!
ETO PEBORIT KO: WOODEN STAKE AND MALLET!
NGARRS!
DI BA SA MGA BAMPIRA LANG GINAGAMIT 'YAN?
WALA! PROPS KO LANG TO! 'FEELING KO KASI AKO SI DR. ABRAHAM VAN HELSING!

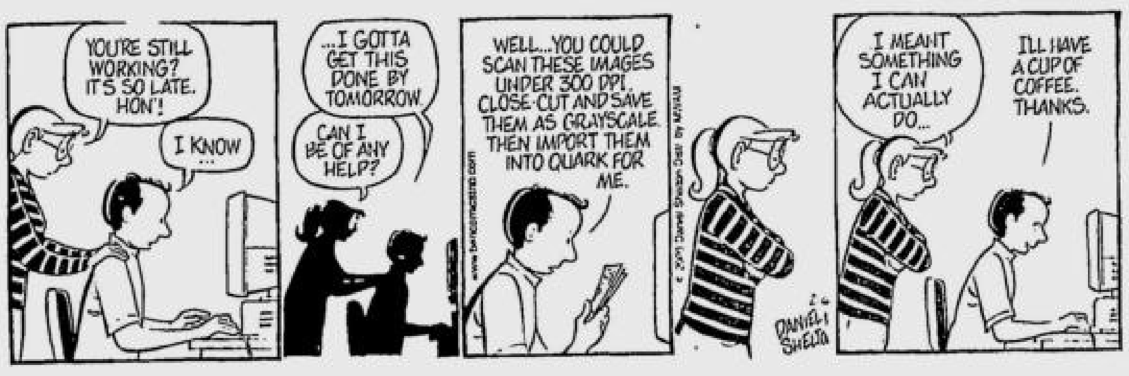
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GAYA NG TUNAY NA GOBYERNO, MANGONGOLEKTA AKO NG BUWIS SA KLASE NATIN!..
..PARA SA MGA PROJECTS NATING TREE-PLANTING AT RECYCLING!
TEKA, TEKA! HINDI NAMAN NATIN MAGAGAWA 'YAN A!
GANOON TALAGA! 'DI BA PARANG TUNAY NA GOBYERNO NGA?
Jmtejido 1-05
www.mikrokosmos.tk

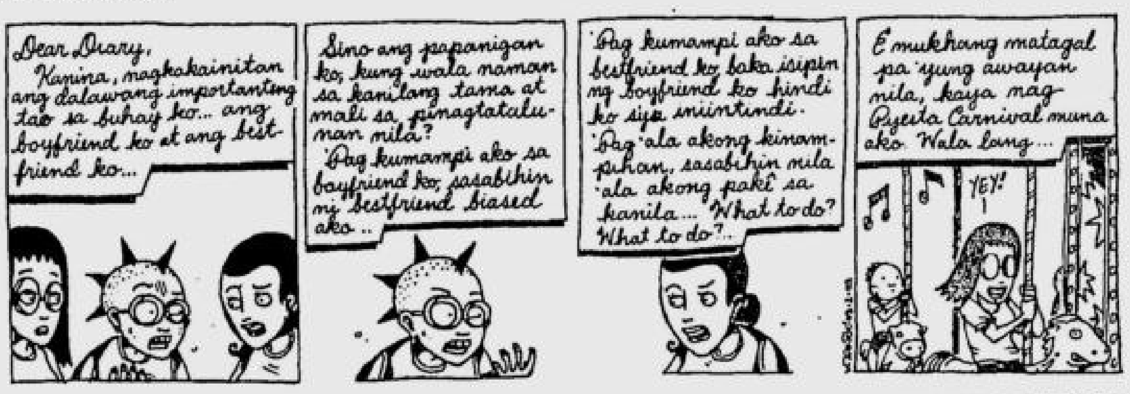
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE STILL WORKING? IT'S SO LATE. HON'!
I KNOW ...
...I GOTTA GET THIS DONE BY TOMORROW.
CAN I BE OF ANY HELP?
WELL...YOU COULD SCAN THESE IMAGES UNDER 300 DPI, CLOSE-CUT AND SAVE THEM AS GRAYSCALE THEN IMPORT THEM INTO QUARK FOR ME.
I MEANT SOMETHING I CAN ACTUALLY DO...
I'LL HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE. THANKS.
DANIEL SHELTON

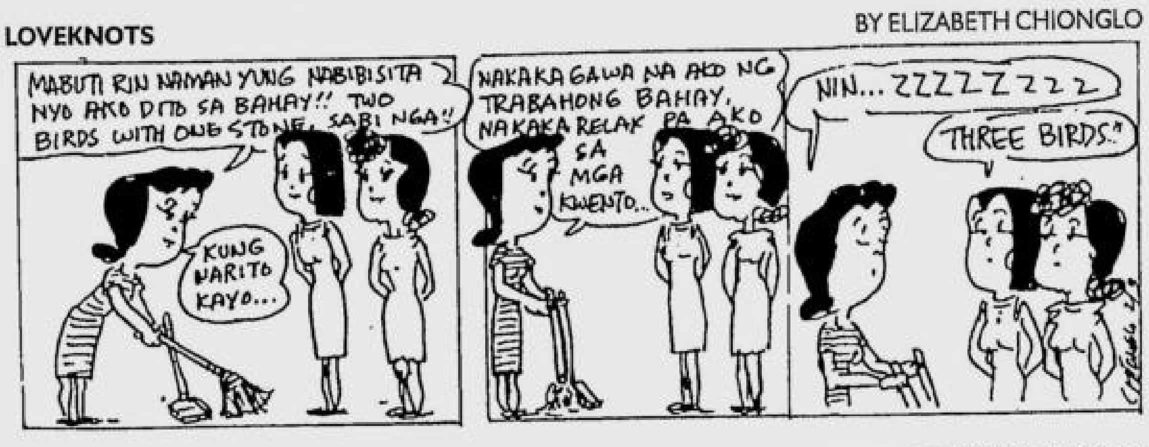
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Dear Diary, Kanina, nagkakainitan ang dalawang importanteng tao sa buhay ko... ang boyfriend ko at ang bestfriend ko...
Sino ang papanigan ko, kung wala naman sa kanilang tama at mali sa pinagtatalunan nila? 'Pag kumampi ako sa boyfriend ko, sasabihin ni bestfriend biased ako..
'Pag kumampi ako sa bestfriend ko baka isipin ng boyfriend ko hindi ko siya iniintindi. 'Pag 'ala akong kinampihan, sasabihin nila 'ala akong paki sa kanila... What to do? What to do?..
E mukhang matagal pa 'yung awayan nila, kaya mag Pyesta Carnival muna ako. Wala lang...
YEY!

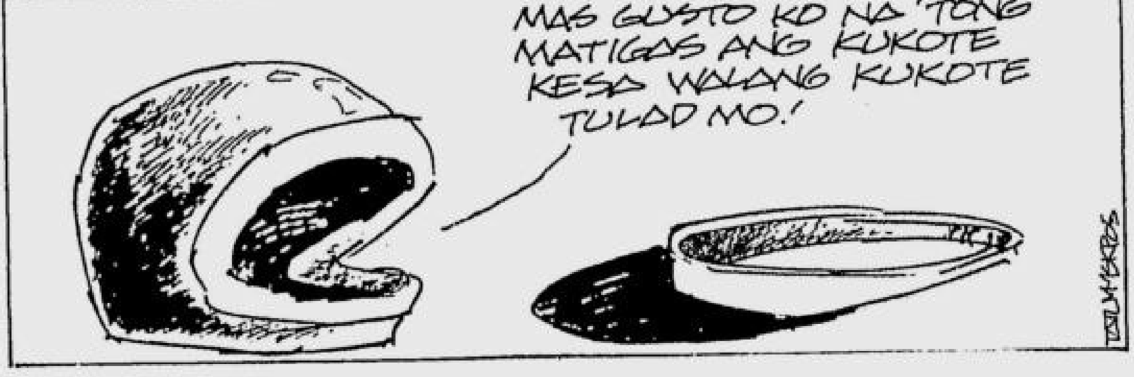
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MABUTI RIN NAMAN YUNG NABIBISITA NYO AKO DITO SA BAHAY!! TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, SABI NGA!!
KUNG NARITO KAYO...
NAKAKAGAWA NA AKO NG TRABAHONG BAHAY, NAKAKA RELAK PA AKO SA MGA KWENTO...
NIN... ZZZZZZZZ
"THREE BIRDS."

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAS GUSTO KO NA 'TONG MATIGAS ANG KUKOTE KESA WALANG KUKOTE TULAD MO!

SeeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 SHALL WE DANCE	1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 1 20, 4 05, 6 50, 9 35	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 12 25 3 10 5 55, 8 40 11 25	1 ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	2 ELEKTRA	2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	2 SHALL WE DANCE 12.45, 3.00, 5 15, 7 30, 9.45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 SHALL WE DANCE 2 15 4 30 6.45, 9 00, 11.15	2 HAROLD & KUMAR
3 ELEKTRA	3 SHALL WE DANCE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 ELEKTRA 1 10 3 30, 5.50, 8 10, 10 30		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS 1 30, 4 00 6 30, 8 00, 11 30	3 ELEKTRA
4 RACING STRIPES	4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	4 WITHOUT A PADDLE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 2 35, 4 45 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT		5 RACING STRIPES		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ELEKTRA 2 10 4 30, 6 50 9 10 11 30	5
		6 SHALL WE DANCE			
		7 MEET THE FOCKERS			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Photoworld Exhibit February 3-8, 2005	Valentine Serenade at Food Establishment February 12-14, 2005	Cebu Dental Society's 54th Medicine Week Society February 2, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK	GREENBELT 3 LOBBY
Valentine Show featuring Bituin Escalante February 12, 2004	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents Busybody
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - Feb. 11,12,13,18,19,20,25,26,27

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AMELIE"
AUDREY TAUTOU
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET

HOW FAR WILL YOU GO FOR LOVE?

Tell us how far you'll go for love and win Ayala Cinemas movie passes. Type your answer in a short bond paper, font size 12, double space. Sign your entry on the lower right side of the page and indicate your name, address and contact number. Seal inside a long letter envelope together with half of your cinema ticket and drop in boxes located in our cinema lobbies.

There will be 10 winners of 2 pcs admit 2 cinema passes. Winners will be notified through registered mail, newspaper ads and phone call.

Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Cinemas office, 5th flr. Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Winner must present a valid ID and the notice received thru registered mail.

Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the receipt of the notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.

All employees of Ayala Cinemas and its subsidiaries including their relatives up to the second degree in consaguinity affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

All prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable.

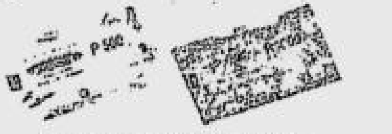
The raffle draw will be help at the 5th floor of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center on March 2, 2005 at 2pm with the presence of a DTI representative.

NOW SHOWING IN AYALA CINEMAS
Ayala Cinemas . . . Beyond Movies
AYALA CINEMAS

Promo duration: February 2 - 16, 2005. Per DTI-NCR permit # A1-094. Series of 2005.

AYALA MALLS
Gift Card
Electronic Gift Certificate

So you won't hear them say
you never get them
the right size, style or color.



1 card = 100 stores
The gift card you love to give & get.
AYALACENTER
LoveMall!

YOUR POWERCARD IS RELOADABLE!!!
TIMEZONE
POWERCARD
Reload your powercard to accumulate P5,000 and be a gold card member!
TIMEZONE

Timezone branches are located at:

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALACENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

Just asking

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IS IT TRUE that **Toni Gonzaga** was warned by her colleagues at GMA 7 about moving to ABS-CBN, but that her mom did not think twice about snapping up the "Kapamilya" network's offer? Some quarters are implying that Toni felt she was no longer needed in GMA 7. However, "Kapuso" network insiders now insist that Toni is sorely missed. Just like any other artist, of course, she's entitled to her own decision. The sad part is, in-demand talents like Toni become so hot, they burn bridges. It's a matter of depth of loyalty against height of stardom!

TONI GONZAGA

Is it true that **Mikey Arroyo** was enraged during the shooting of his movie with Direk **Willy Milan**, when he saw that caterer **Jojo Vinson**'s van sported an FPJ poster? Jojo happens to be the favorite caterer of many directors/producers. The presidential son is said to have demanded that the poster be removed—and Jojo fired, pronto. Was Mikey just in one of his moods? Was he internalizing for the next scene?

Now that "MTB" has folded, will **Arnel Ignacio** go back to his hosting chores in GMA 7's "K! The 1M Videoke Challenge?" What about the P1M monthly talent fee that lured him over to ABS-CBN in the first place? Does he regret losing a one-in-a- million job?

'Alfie'

WHILE working on the title role of "Alfie," British-born actor **Jude Law** reflected on what makes a guy like Alfie so attractive to women. "A huge fan" of the 1966 film and of **Michael Caine**'s take on the character, Law says the modern-day Alfie he has created is on an entirely different journey.

"There's no doubt that individuals with Alfie's attitude existed back then and there's no doubt they exist today," observes Law. "Some would even say his attitude is, more relevant to the way people currently think; that is, more freely with regard to sex and dating."

Law points out that when the original film came out, people were shocked to witness how some men actually behaved. "It's almost 40 years later, though," he says, "and what women... will put up with today changes the entire tone of a film like this."

But the question persists: Throughout the centuries, why have intelligent women been drawn to such men? Despite their recklessness, disdain for commitment, and disregard for everyone's feelings but their own, Alfies of the world continue to get away with unabashed immaturity while winning women's hearts still.

This contemporary rendition has Alfie as a Londoner who has taken up residence in Manhattan, where he hopes to make his fortune—and ensnare as many beautiful women as possible. He works as a limousine driver, chauffeuring the wealthy and occasionally making out with lonely female clients in the back seat.

JUST/A25

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1
2 (DTS) IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
4 MAD HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MAD HOUSE
2 (DOLBY) SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DTS) ELEKTRA
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 WHITE NOISE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY)
2 ELEKTRA
3 (DTS) MAD HOUSE
4 HELLWOLF
5 PAKAWALANG PUSO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 RAISE YOUR VOICE
2 HANEP SA PORMA HAYOP SA GANDA
3 (DTS) WHITE NOISE
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HONEY
2 ELEKTRA
3 WHITE NOISE
4 GEORGE & THE DRAGON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 WHITE NOISE
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MEET THE FOCKERS
2 UNO
3 (DTS EX) ELEKTRA
4 AUGUST 7, 1905

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
3 (DOLBY)
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 WHITE NOISE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS) 2046

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 RAISE YOUR VOISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ELEKTRA
3 (DOLBY) WHITE NOISE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 ELEKTRA
2 MADHOUSE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
5 SHALL WE DANCE

LIPA (043) 757-3684, (043) 312-5870
1 ELEKTRA
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 WHITE NOISE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125, (046) 416-4332
1 ELEKTRA
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 MADHOUSE
5 MEET THE FOCKERS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 ELEKTRA
2 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
3 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

IMUS (046) 875-3838, (046) 471-8188
1 ELEKTRA
2 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 RACING STRIPES

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927, (045) 961-5270
1 HELLWOLF
2 BIRTH
3 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 ELEKTRA
6 2046

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453, (034) 441-0459
1 ELEKTRA
2 WHITE NOISE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
5 NED KELLY
6 UNO

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 ELEKTRA
2 WHITE NOISE
3 RAISE YOUR VOICE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 2046
6 MADHOUSE

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass
to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Just asking

From page A24

Though he has ambitions, he is content with just enough for him to get by, his primary focus being the pleasures of life without the responsibilities.

Law is joined by a cast of talented actresses—Academy Award winners **Marisa Tomei** and **Susan Sarandon**, **Nia Long**, Tony Award winner and Golden Globe nominee **Jane Krakowski** and England's hot young actress, **Sienna Miller**.

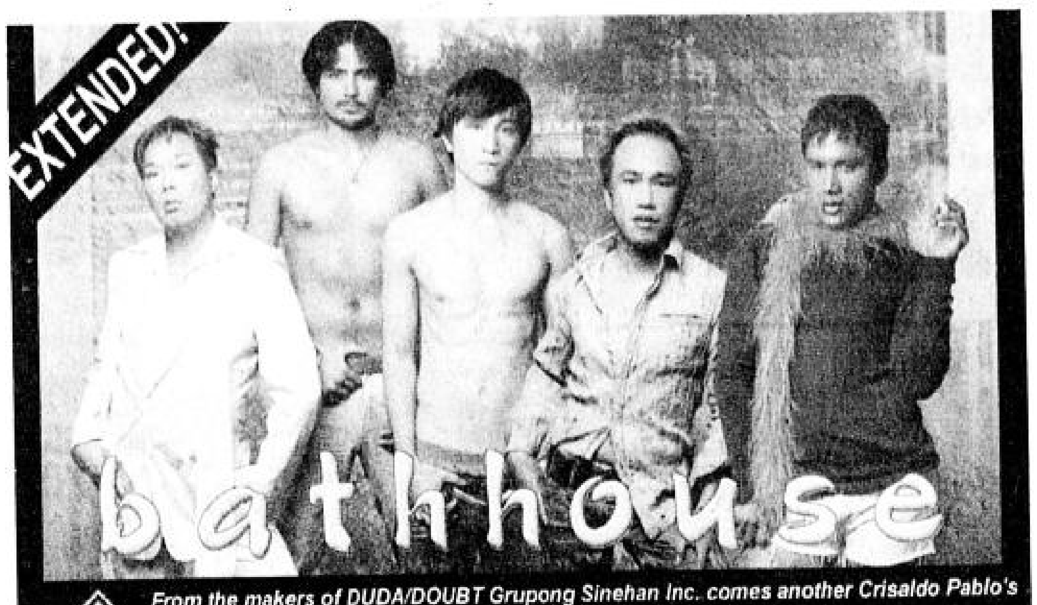
Theme music and three original songs composed especially for the film by Grammy winners **Mick Jagger** and **Dave Stewart** highlight "Alfie." In addition, award-winning composer **John Powell** teamed up with the rock legends to write the score.

"Alfie," released in the Philippines by United International Pictures through Solar Entertainment Corporation, opens in local theaters next week.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

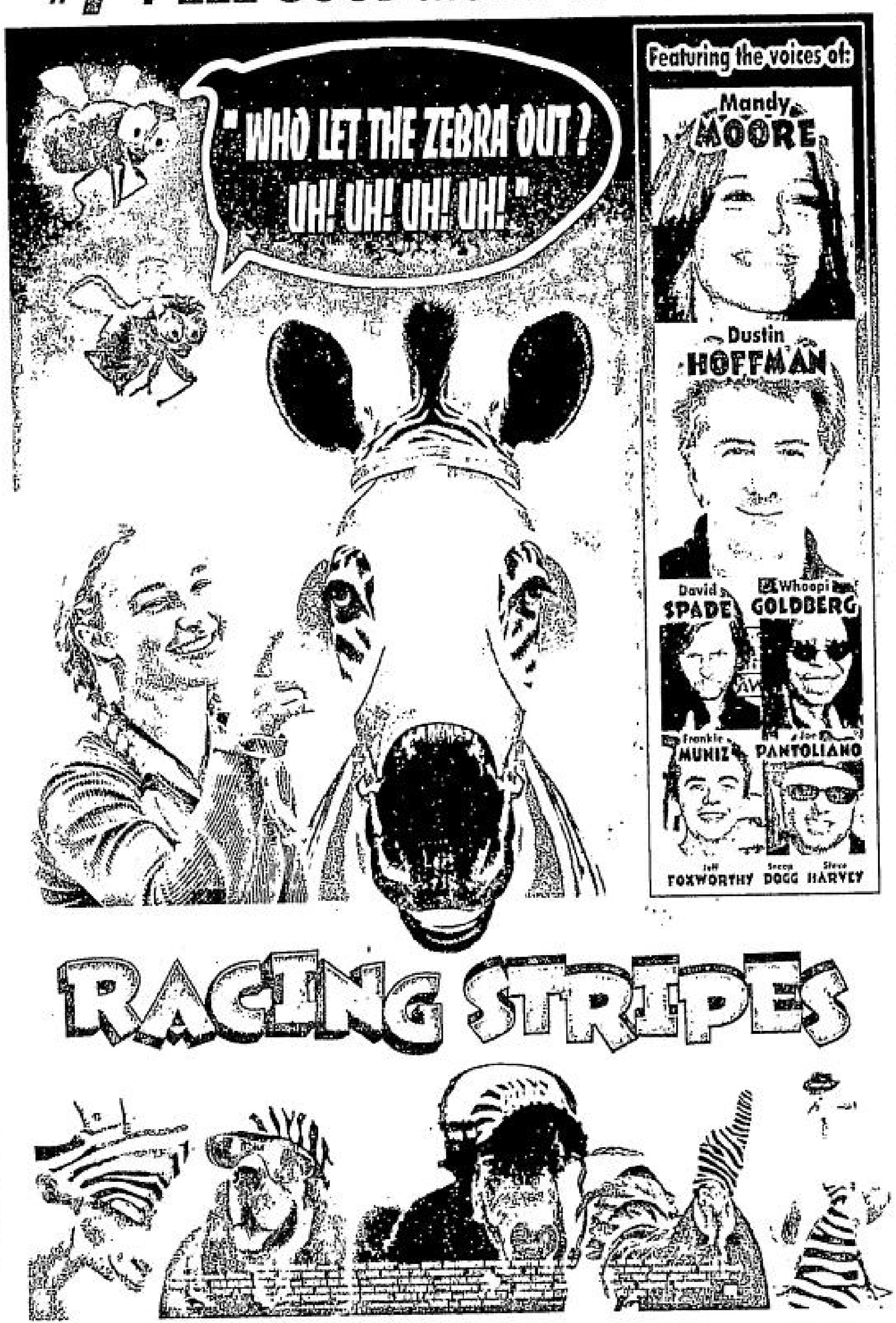
DID YOU KNOW...

After her song number during the SCQ Grand Questors night on Saturday, **Maricel Soriano** was left groping for words when the teleprompter was removed—literally carried away—by the production staff. The star was reading the first line of her spiel when it happened. She had to adlib, of course. A stage director berated one production assistant, then walked out.

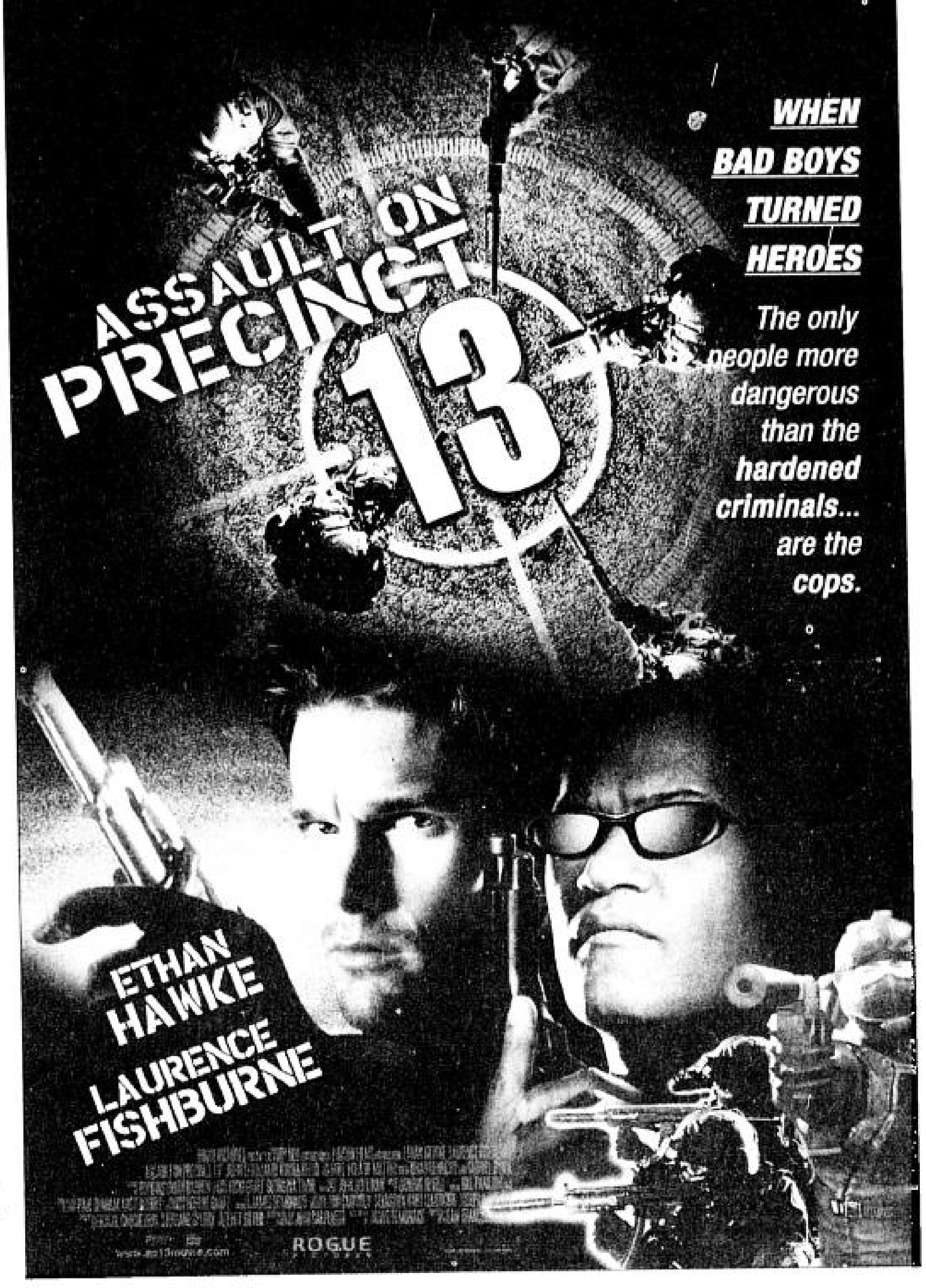

EXTENDED!
bathhouse

From the makers of DUDA/DOUBT Grupong Sinehan Inc. comes another Crisaldo Pablo's digital movie about love and relationship.
Starring: Jet Alcantara, Andoy Ranay, Rey Pumaloy, John Lapus intoducing Ray An Dulay
FEBRUARY 01 to 08
exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
MOVIEWORLD
MTRCB Rating: R-18

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING
#1 FEEL GOOD MOVIE OF THE YEAR !


" WHO LET THE ZEBRA OUT ? UH! UH! UH! UH! "
Featuring the voices of:
Mandy MOORE
Dustin HOFFMAN
David SPADE
Whoopi GOLDBERG
Frankie MUNIZ
Joe PANTOLIANO
Jeff FOXWORTHY
Snoop DOGG
Steve HARVEY
RACING STRIPES

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
"Action-packed! Strong performances!"
It gets a grip on the audience early and never let's go... -Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES

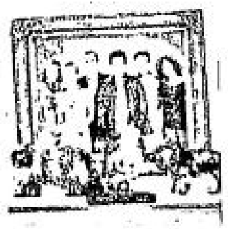

WHEN BAD BOYS TURNED HEROES
The only people more dangerous than the hardened criminals... are the cops.
ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
ETHAN HAWKE
LAURENCE FISHBURNE
www.ap13rogue.com
ROGUE

SM CINEMA movietime

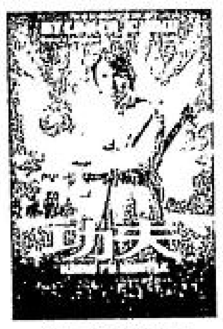
of the Week
Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon
A new comedy about following your own lead.
Shall we Dance?
MTRCB Rating: G (All ages admitted)
NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

ELEKTRA
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
Pampanga • Bagulo • Bacoor
Batangas • Dasmariñas
Marilao • Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro



MEET THR FOCKERS
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
Bacoor • Dasmariñas • Cebu
Bagulo • Pampanga



KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
Pampanga • Davao • Bacoor
Lucena • Cebu • Iloilo • Baguio
Batangas • Cagayan de Oro

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 ELEKTRA
2 MAD HOUSE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OUT OF REACH
5 HELLWOLF
6 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city marilao
1 ELEKTRA
2 MAD HOUSE
3 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
4 BLADE TRINITY

sm city baguio
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 UNO
4 ELEKTRA

sm city bacoor
1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 RACING STRIPES
3 ELEKTRA
4 WHITE NOISE
5 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm city batangas
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 ELEKTRA
4 WHITE NOISE

sm city dasmariñas
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 ELEKTRA
3 MAD HOUSE
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city lucena
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 UNO
3 HELLWOLF
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 ELEKTRA
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 HAROLD AND KUMAR
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 ELEKTRA

sm city iloilo
1 MADHOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 ELEKTRA
6 WHITE NOISE
7 RESERVED
8 RAISE YOUR VOICE

sm city davao
1 ELEKTRA
2 WHITE NOISE
3 BIRTH
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 HAROLD AND KUMAR
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 WHITE NOISE
3 NED KELLY
4 ELEKTRA

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by an adult
$85M SUPER PRODUCTION FROM WARNER BROS.
OPENS FEBRUARY 9
3 ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS
ART DIRECTION • CINEMATOGRAPHY • ORIGINAL SONG
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTRESS • BEST ORIGINAL SONG

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.
The PHANTOM of the OPERA
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

ENTERTAINMENT
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Four 'should-see' films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOUR new "should-see" films showing in local theaters early this month are "Shall We Dance," "A Very Long Engagement," " Assault on Precinct 13" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

"Shall We Dance" is Hollywood's remake of a popular and critically acclaimed Japanese hit film about a button-down businessman whose life is transformed and complicated when he takes ballroom dancing lessons.

"A Very Long Engagement" is a panoramic movie by the same director-star team who first made viewers sit up and take notice with "Amelie." **Audrey Tautou** plays a young woman who risks everything to look for her lover, from whom she's been separated by a brutal war.

"Assault on Precinct 13" is a remake of an old action film hit, with powerful performances turned in by ace actors **Ethan Hawke** and **Laurence Fishburne.**

And "The Phantom of the Opera" is the long-awaited film version of the popular stage musical by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**.

On point of star value, "Shall We Dance" has the edge because of its **Richard Gere-Jennifer Lopez-Susan Sarandon** combination. Next in line is "Assault's" Hawke-Fishburne tandem.

But the best "pre-sold" clout, at least among musical buffs, is enjoyed by "Phantom," which has been seen in its long-running original stage form by more than 8 million people.

The expectation is that a good percentage of those musical fans would want to see the film version, to make some instructive comparisons.

"Engagement" isn't as strong, but it's expected to appeal to lovers of romantic films, and the not inconsiderable number of viewers who liked "Amelie."

So, each movie should appeal to its own niche audience. That's a good thing because it provides local viewers varied viewing options to suit their differing tastes.

Which one will you watch first?

We're setting our sights on "Phantom," because we've loved watching musicals for many years now.

Feedback

FROM **Jonafe Begasa** of Bacolod City: "Your piece on 'A better way to succeed as a TV worker' is a really honest-to-goodness dauntless exposé of the motives for producing TV shows on the part of some executive producers here. I salute you for your honesty and effort to open our eyes about how things really operate in entertainment.

"The example of Izzicup at CBS in the States is worth emulating by all those who aspire to be TV workers here.

"The idea of inspiring viewers, more than just entertaining them, is a key role for TV workers to play in uplifting our pop culture.

"It's a real challenge for those in the TV industry to try harder to break the mold of exposing young viewers here to the 'culture' of sex and violence, just because this type of production is popular and easy to do."

'My Funny Valentine'

TUESDAY Vargas and the Fat Session Band perform in the pre-Valentine show, "My Funny Valentine," at 9 p.m. on Feb. 12 at China Palace, Tagaytay Highlands.

Highlands members and guests will also enjoy a grand Chinese buffet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Highlands China Palace. Call (046) 413-2033.

'Storytelling on Film'

THE FILIPINAS Heritage Library will host a "Storytelling on Film and Video" lecture series on Feb. 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by **Isabel Enriquez Kenny.**

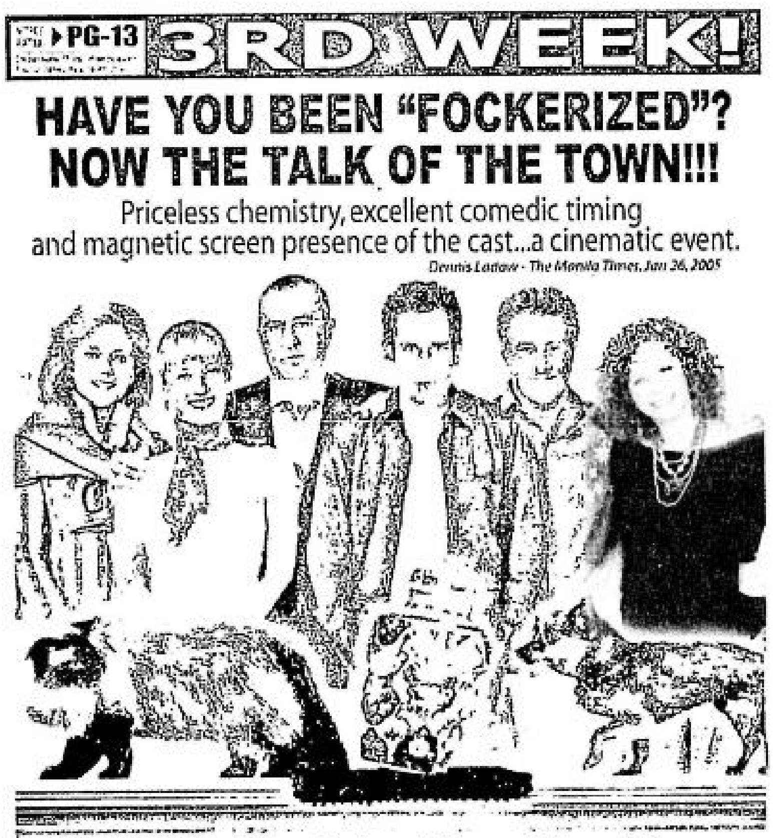
Kenny is a writer and published author. Her new book, "Making Documentaries in the Philippines," will be released in March. She is a working screenwriter, a lecturer, and a producer for Magic Lantern Films.

She taught at Boston and Emerson Colleges in Massachusetts and Loyola University of New Orleans, and was a guest lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles, among others.

Through a series of lectures, viewing films for analysis, and writing exercises, Kenny teaches course participants dramatic structure, character development and key story elements like the problem, super want, rising conflict, action and dialogue.

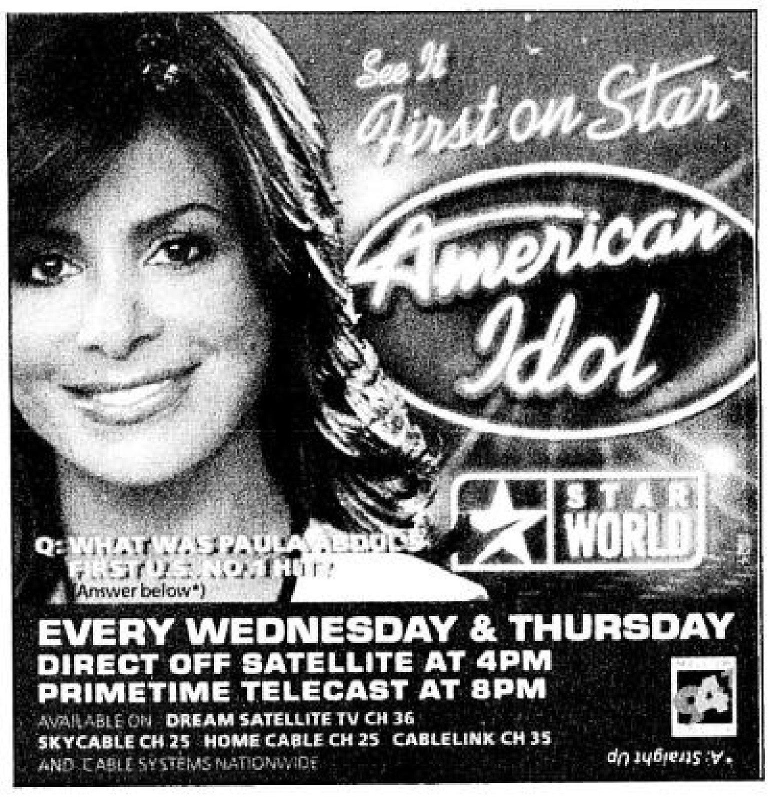
Call 892-1801 or e-mail events@fillib.org.ph. The Filipinas Heritage Library is located along Makati Avenue, across the Manila Peninsula.

"THE PHANTOM of the Opera"—long-awaited film version of the hit stage musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber—is Viewfinder's top priority.



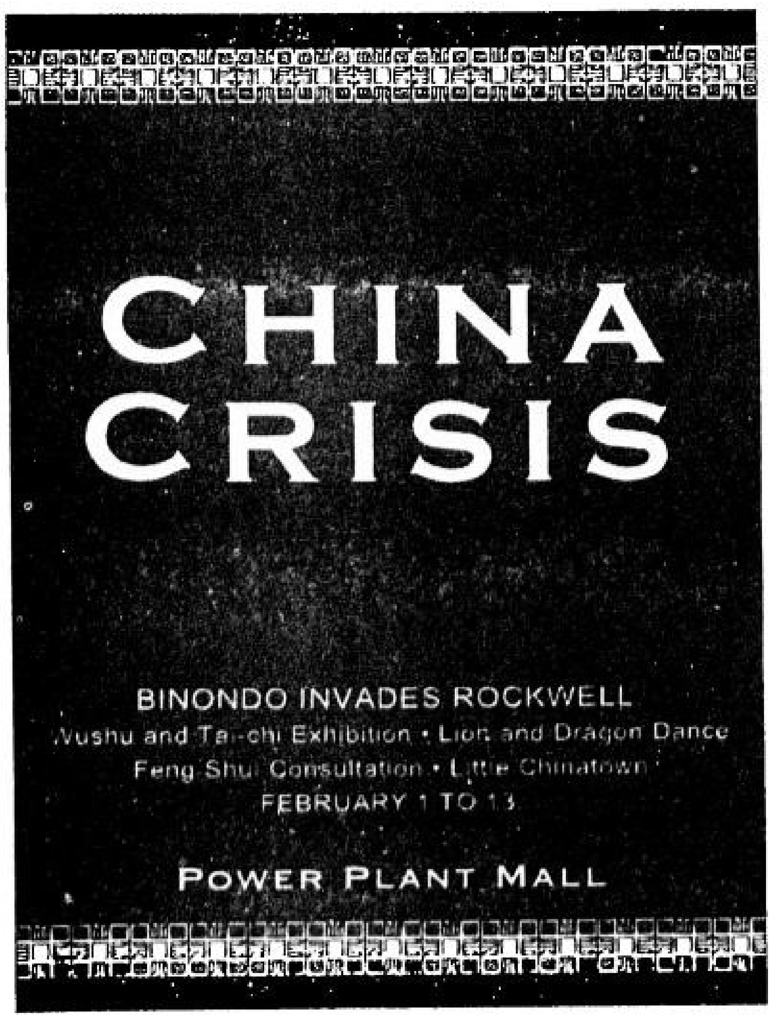
PG-13 3RD WEEK!
HAVE YOU BEEN "FOCKERIZED"?
NOW THE TALK OF THE TOWN!!!
Priceless chemistry, excellent comedic timing and magnetic screen presence of the cast...a cinematic event.
Dennis Ladaw - The Manila Times, Jan 26, 2005
Robert DeNiro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
Solar Entertainment Corporation
www.meetthefockers.com
DreamWorks Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AMÉLIE"
AUDREY TAUTOU
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET
From the heartache of war began a journey of hope.

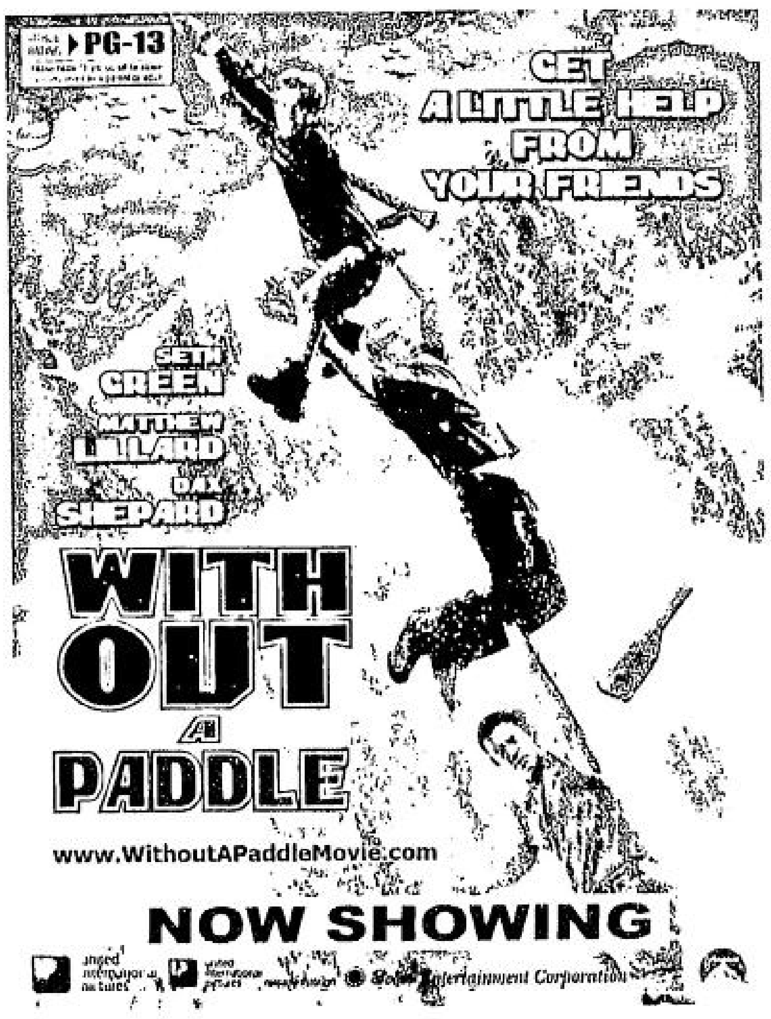


See It First on Star
American Idol
STAR WORLD
Q: WHAT WAS PAULA ABDUL'S FIRST U.S. NO.1 HIT?
(Answer below*)
EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
DIRECT OFF SATELLITE AT 4PM
PRIMETIME TELECAST AT 8PM
AVAILABLE ON DREAM SATELLITE TV CH 36
SKYCABLE CH 25 HOME CABLE CH 25 CABLELINK CH 35
AND CABLE SYSTEMS NATIONWIDE
*A: Straight Up

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon
A new comedy about following your own lead.
Shall we Dance?
www.Miramax.com
MIRAMAX
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



CHINA CRISIS
BINONDO INVADES ROCKWELL
Wushu and Tai-chi Exhibition • Lion and Dragon Dance
Feng Shui Consultation • Little Chinatown
FEBRUARY 1 TO 13
POWER PLANT MALL



PG-13
GET A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS
SETH GREEN
MATTHEW LILLARD
DAX SHEPARD
WITHOUT A PADDLE
www.WithoutAPaddleMovie.com
NOW SHOWING
United International Pictures
Solar Entertainment Corporation

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market

SitePro UPS
> More critical equipment supported
> No single point of failure
> Extremely flexible
High efficiency
> Fully digital
Digital Energy
AMTI Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.
Suite 1408, 14/F Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel. #: 636-3563 Fax #: 636-3564

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 3, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BUMILI NG PETRON ULTRON O REV-X AT I-TEXT
PETRON
6B23888A/
Al Dy/
1 Dalia St.
Cubao, Q.C.
Promo Period runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005.
See posters and flyers for details
PETRON

Mines seen luring $3B in investments

By Christine A. Gaylican and Ronnel W. Domingo

SOME $3.1 billion in foreign direct investments are expected to be poured into different Philippine mining projects beginning this year.

At the start of a mining investment forum organized by the Philippine Chamber of Mines, a mix of foreign companies identified different mining projects in the country that they are pursuing. These firms include Crew Gold Corp. of Canada, China Metallurgical Corp., Jinshuan Non-Metals Corp., Australian firms Lafayette Mining Ltd., Climax Mining Ltd. and Indophil Resources Inc.

"The winds of change are sweeping the Philippine mining sector and foreign investors are now very keen to invest here," Indophil Resources Philippines managing director Tony W. Robbins said in a press briefing.

Robbins' company Indophil is the foreign partner of the Alcantara Group's Sagittarius Mines Inc., which will initially invest $650 million to develop the Tampacan mining project in South Cotabato.

Another company, Crew Gold Corp., has renewed its intent to develop the $1-billion Mindoro nickel mining project, formerly known as the Aglubang mining project. The mining permit of its local subsidiary Crew Minerals Corp. expired four years ago.

"We have filed an application for a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) in March 2004 and this is proof that we will invest here," Crew Gold president and CEO Jan A. Vestrum told the INQUIRER.

Vestrum said that they plan to put up a nickel processing plant that would employ the High Pressure Acid Leach technology to recover the nickel and cobalt from the ore, a similar technology now being applied by the Rio Tuba Mining Corp. in its Coral Bay nickel project in Palawan with Japanese firm Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.

He added that aside from this nickel mining project, his company was also pursuing other exploration projects such as the Pamplona sulfur project in Negros Oriental.

Climax Mining will initially invest $85 million in its copper-gold project in Nueva Viscaya. Climax-Arimco's Didipio copper-gold project in Kasibu, Nueva Viscaya, is expected to yield 2 million tons a year with 181,000 ounces of gold worth about $58 million a year.

Climax Mining chair Jim Askew said they were now finalizing the financing requirements for their project.

Lafayette Mining of Australia is investing $42 million in its subsidiary Lafayette Philippines Inc. to begin gold production in the second quarter of this year at its RapuRapu polymetallic project in Legaspi City, Albay.

An additional $1.3 billion in investments will come from state-owned Chinese firms for nickel processing and glass manufacturing projects in the country.

The Chamber of Mines also signed yesterday a pact with its Chinese counterpart to strengthen the exchange of information and coordination between the Philippine and Chinese mining industries.

CMP president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said the group's memorandum of understanding with the China Chambers of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemical Importers and Exporters (CCCMC) also sought to promote cooperation on training, joint seminars and exhibitions, prevention of trade frictions, exchange of information on membership and creditability, and sharing of work experiences.

The agreement was struck as

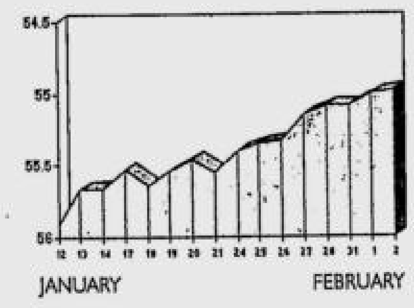
MINES/ B3

CHAMBER of Mines of the Phils. president Philip Romualdez with China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemical chair Chen Hoaran during the opening yesterday of the International Mining Conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati. ERIK ARAZAS

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 54.98= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 2, 2005

¥ 103.71= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 2, 2005

GOLD: $ 420.80-423.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 1, 2005

February 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.766342	1.000000	54.9370
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.009645	0.5299
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444019	1.884300	103.5178
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.098257	0.128215	7.0437
Switzerland	Franc	0.643877	0.840195	46.1578
Canada	Dollar	0.620118	0.809192	44.4546
Singapore	Dollar	0.467853	0.610501	33.5391
Australia	Dollar	0.590994	0.771188	42.3668
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.032792	2.652590	145.7253
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.204353	0.266660	14.6495
Brunei	Dollar	0.466429	0.608643	33.4370
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000108	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.019828	0.025873	1.4214
UAE	Dirham	0.208676	0.272301	14.9594
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.304900	71.6873
Argentina	Peso	0.262671	0.342759	18.8302
Brazil	Real	0.294069	0.383730	21.0810
Denmark	Kroner	0.134429	0.175417	9.6369
India	Rupee	0.017577	0.022936	1.2600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201696	0.263193	14.4590
Mexico	New Peso	0.068611	0.089530	4.9185
New Zealand	Dollar	0.544626	0.710682	39.0427
Norway	Kroner	0.120779	0.157604	8.6583
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012919	0.016858	0.9261
South Africa	Rand	0.127724	0.166667	9.1562
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000974	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.110044	0.143596	7.8887
Syria	Pound	0.014746	0.019242	1.0571
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024110	0.031461	1.7284
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000400	0.000522	0.0287

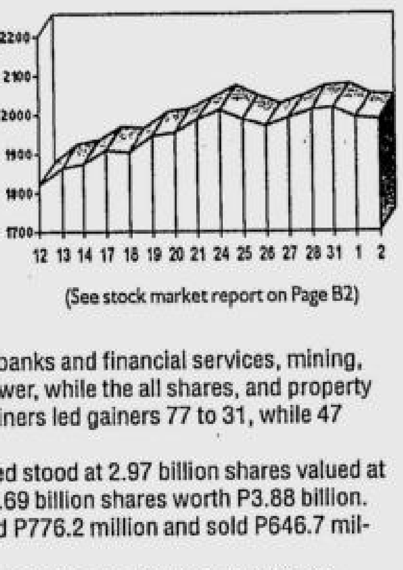
STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower

STOCKS ended marginally lower yesterday, weighed down by losses incurred by select stocks led by PLDT and Bank of the Philippine Islands, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 2.81 points, or 0.1 percent, at 1989.65, after shedding 1.3 percent Tuesday.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The commercial-industrial, banks and financial services, mining, and oil sub-indexes finished lower, while the all shares, and property sub-indicators advanced. Decliners led gainers 77 to 31, while 47 stocks were unchanged.

Total volume of shares traded stood at 2.97 billion shares valued at P1.33 billion from Tuesday's 2.69 billion shares worth P3.88 billion.

Foreign investors purchased P776.2 million and sold P646.7 million worth of stocks.

"We consider this a healthy market consolidation, given that a number of shares are still hovering around overbought levels," said First Grade Holding managing director Astro del Castillo.

"But it seems like the selling in the market has somehow tapered off from that of yesterday, so we expect a bounce tomorrow," he added.

Weighing on the main index was PLDT, down 1.1 percent at P1,400, in step with the 1.6-percent loss suffered by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Tuesday.

STOCKS/ B2

BSP not inclined to raise rates

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said there was no significant pressure yet to tighten its monetary policy, despite the possibility of another increase in the US Federal Reserve rate.

"We don't see a significant reason at this point in time," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

He said indicators that the BSP need not raise its 6.75-percent borrowing rate, which has been unchanged since 2003, included a "very moderate" demand for credit and that inflationary build up was still caused by supply-side factors.

"Besides, the peso's recovery has a positive effect on inflation," Tetangco added.

In an economic briefing yesterday, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the inflation uptrend "is driven by transitory supply-side factors, which cannot be addressed by monetary action."

The US Federal Reserve last year implemented a series of increases that brought its policy rate to 2.25 percent from only 1 percent. The Fed has expressed intention to raise the rate to as high as 4 percent this year.

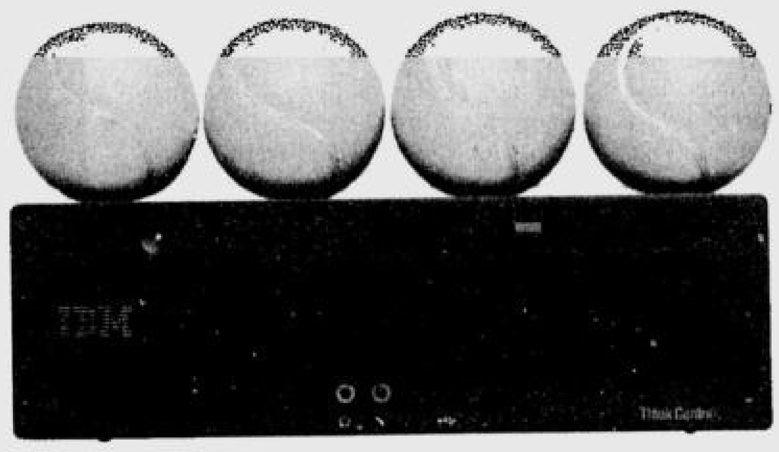
Michelle V. Remo

INTEREST RATES

February 2, 2005-MART1

Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART 1 2-Feb-05	MART 1 1-Feb-05
1 Month	7.0654	7.075
3 Months	7.0536	7.0173
6 Months	8.08	8.035
1 Year	9.0635	9.0096
2 Years	9.8304	9.7536
3 Years	10.4107	10.3321
4 Years	10.9833	10.8692
5 Years	11.4732	11.2304
7 Years	12.1115	11.9462
10 Years	12.51	12.4867
20 Years	13.0893	13.1018
25 Years	14.0554	13.9893

IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.



It measures just 4 balls x 4 balls x 1.2 balls. Meet the new, IBM Think Centre ultra small desktop. It's our smallest desktop PC ever. But it plays much bigger. With the Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor, you can maximize productivity by running lots of applications simultaneously without forfeiting performance. The new ultra small Think Centre from IBM. The power of a desktop. The footprint of a laptop. For a demo, go to ibm.com/ph/s50thinksmall. And boy, does it have game.

Small size. Big performance.
Only on a ThinkCentre.

intel inside pentium 4

IBM ThinkCentre S50
Ultrasmall form factor
System Features
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 3.0GHz
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft®Windows® XP Professional
256MB PC3200 DDR SDRAM
40GB 7200RPM IDE hard disk drive
CD-ROM: 24X Max
GB Ethernet-Integrated
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
E74 17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP53,895 8086ZBA

IBM ThinkCentre S50
Ultrasmall form factor
System Features
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 3.2GHz
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft®Windows® XP Professional
256MB PC3200 DDR SDRAM
40GB 7200RPM IDE hard disk drive
CD-ROM: 24X Max
GB Ethernet-Integrated
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
E74 17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP57,750 8086KAB

IBM ThinkPad X40
Our thinnest and lightest
Distinctive Innovations
Active Protection System
Helps protect hard drive from falls
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-button data backup and recovery
System Features
Intel® Pentium® M Processor LV 738 (1.4GHz)
Intel® PRO/Wireless 802 11b
Microsoft®Windows® XP Professional
256MB RAM
40GB 4200RPM hard disk drive
10/100/1000 (Gigabit) Ethernet (LOM)
3-year Customer Carry-In Repair Warranty
12.1" 1024x768 - TFT Display
FREE Executive Carrying Case and
USB 2.0 Portable DVD-CDRW Combo Drive
Express Price PhP120,995 2371E3A

IBM ThinkVision L150
System Features
15" TFT Monitor
1024 x 768 Maximum Resolution
304mm x 228 Maximum Viewable
3-year Warranty
Express Price Ph19,570 Part Number 6636AC1

IBM ThinkVision L170
System Features
17" TFT Monitor
1024 x 768 Maximum Resolution
338mm x 270 Maximum Viewable
3-year Warranty
Express Price Ph25,960 Part Number 6734AC1

IBM

1 800 1888 1426 | ibm.com/ph/s50thinksmall
995 2426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm and Sunday 9am - 3pm

IBM Partners: ABC Computers Co, Inc. • Accent Micro Products, Inc. • Advance Microsystems Inc. • Advance Solutions, Inc. • Aries IT Systems • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc. • Axis Computers • Axus International, Inc. • Ayala Systems Technology Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc. • Eco I.T Solutions Corporation • Electroworld Office Systems • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd. • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microbase, Inc. • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • Valuetrine Systems & Solutions Corporation • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
IBM Corporate Resellers: Creative Technologies, Inc. • Ng Khai Development Corporation • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc. • SM Equicom Computer Services, Inc. • Unison Computer Systems, Inc.

These police things

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL the noise about the increase in the value-added tax, or VAT, must have something to do with the Pinoys' all-time favorite numbers game *jueteng*.

The tax measure is pending in Congress. Some senators and congressmen are threatening to block it. They are saying, in effect, the tax will lead to a revolution.

Now the tax measure imposes on the present 10-percent VAT an increase of 2 percentage points. Some of our beloved lawmakers think the increase is murder.

With the increase, of course, this cute administration of Gloriaetta stands to raise about P40 billion. The total, indeed, looks like a hefty figure.

But for every P1,000 worth of purchases, the additional VAT is exactly P20. And what is P20 nowadays?

It does not even buy you a pack of cigarettes. It's only the tip we give security guards for parking. And yes, it is the amount we bet on jueteng everyday.

The senators and congressmen think that, instead of paying the additional VAT, we must be allowed to bet the money on jueteng. They have to make noises.

* * *

IF you are poor, without a centavo in your pocket, certainly the additional VAT will look like nothing but a bold daytime highway robbery.

But the beauty of the VAT, precisely, is that it's a tax on users. You don't pay for the VAT, if you do not buy anything.

And the last time I checked, if you do not have a centavo in your pocket, you cannot buy anything at all. Meaning, you don't pay for the VAT.

The spendthrift among us, surely, will have to bear the heaviest burden from the additional VAT. That's why it is a good tax measure. It discourages acquisitiveness.

And so I personally like the analogy of this congressman from Surigao, Rep. Prospero Pichay, which he uses to defend his "yes" vote for the additional VAT.

He said that our paying for the 2-percent additional VAT was only like placing a bet on *jueteng* two times a day.

In *jueteng*, nevertheless, you even take a chance. You may or may not win. If you don't, which is what usually happens, the money is gone to the gambling lords.

And then Pichay goes on to say that, in comparison, in the VAT, we are all sure winners. It looks like Pichay does not get protection money from the gambling lords.

* * *

ANYWAY, the congressman is only saying that the additional VAT is not a whimsical measure. It is in fact a necessary measure. It can help us get out of a tight financial fix.

Under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, you see, the country's biggest problem has become the yawning budget deficit. To cover it, we must borrow.

Even foreign investors, plus of course foreign creditors, have started to worry if we can indeed go on much longer carrying a mountain of debt.

Thus, they downgraded our credit ratings. This simply means that we are becoming riskier as borrowers which, in turn, means we have to pay more for interest.

Another downgrading is forthcoming if we do nothing. The thing is, we know what we have to do. We just don't want to do it. So we'll get another downgrading.

Yet the money we waste on interest amounts to billions and billions of pesos. It can instead go to health care or public schools, if not to roads or salary of soldiers.

And so, whether we like it or not, this cute administration must impose new taxes. It is the only way. If it's not the VAT, it's got to be something else.

Studies after studies, here and abroad, have already shown that VAT is the fairest and broadest form of taxation. Even those senators and congressmen know that.

The VAT may not be a popular measure, but now is not the time to take popular decisions. Now is the time to take sacrifices. For everybody!

* * *

NOBODY was surprised when Gloriaetta commended the "anti-drug czar" of this cute administration during the recent anniversary rites of the Philippine National Police.

The "czar" is a common man who happens to be a police officer, PNP Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon.

He is the three-star general who is reported to be in the shortlist (okay, very short list) of names in Malacañang for the next PNP chief.

De Leon is the head of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force. Under him, the task force busted a lot of the bigtime laboratories of illegal drugs.

That's why Gloriaetta commended him. The laboratories of illegal drugs, after all, were run mostly by foreigners. Most of them were Chinese nationals.

Even in big legitimate business, horror stories are going around about the infiltration of mainland Chinese into the influential circles in this country.

One Chinese-Filipino businessman, for instance, was said to have been approached by a foreign drug syndicate for a partnership in the ... well, "business."

When the businessman turned down the offer, the syndicate's frontman even called him stupid. Why? Because even well-known figures were into it!

As the story goes, even well-known important figures of the Federation of the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., or the FFCCCII, are dipping their fingers into drugs.

They are influential figures, right?

And so, with De Leon having conducted raids on the big laboratories, wiping out roughly 60 percent of the supply, the syndicates must find the "better" connections.

Gloriaetta had to commend the drug czar as a message to the public. This cute administration may be bad in a lot of things, but it will not tolerate drug syndicates.

* * *

DE Leon, after addressing what he calls the "supply side" of the drug menace, now thinks it is about time that we take decisive action on the demand side—quite a nice term for "drug addicts," actually.

He tells me that there are about 3.4 million users, based on a 1999 survey, with 1.8 million regular users and 1.6 million occasional users. They are potential criminals.

Yet this country has facilities to rehabilitate only 8,000 people every year, in all our 63 rehab centers, both government and private centers.

De Leon thinks the only solution is value formation among the youth. Let's start them young, he says. That, to him, is before they reach 12 years old. It is hard to change their thinking when their character is already set.

First in his list of "must do" is the removal of self-pity in our kids. It is the most glaring of the weaknesses of drug dependents.

De Leon actually learned to shed self pity from his father, who was an Army master sergeant. This is one tough police general, believe me.

* * *

BUT whether this cute administration likes it or not, De Leon will become a problem. I mean, what will this cute administration do with him in the next six months.

Reports have it that another police officer, a two-star general, is almost certain to get the position of PNP chief, leaving De Leon ... well, actually, where do we leave him?

You see, he will be the most senior in rank in the entire police force when the present chief retires next month.

De Leon has been a general for the past 11 years, and in all those years, he occupied 15 positions. Today he concurrently holds three positions as head of the PNP community relations, operations and plans.

I mean, what do you do with a man like that, if you ignore his credentials, and you go for the "bata" system in choosing the next PNP chief? I think he is a problem.

* * *

PLUS, of course, the man is not lacking in accomplishment. Aside from the successful anti-drug campaign, De Leon figured prominently in the last elections.

He was then still PNP chief for the NCR, the National Capital Region, where the election-related protest of the late Fernando Poe Jr. was burning the hottest.

His supporters held a protest march, converging at the "welcome" rotonda on Rodriguez Avenue and España, the boundary of Manila and Quezon City, site of many protest gatherings in the past, since from there, it only takes a few yet media-dramatic steps toward Malacañang.

It could have been a bloody march, a repeat of the attack on Malacañang right after the ouster of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

It was then that De Leon was seen on television right there in the middle of the action. Result—nobody was injured, nobody was killed, and the march ended peacefully.

Well, it's not for nothing that De Leon is recognized in the PNP as the country's foremost expert in community relations of the police force.

He started all those community relations campaigns of the PNP, the so-called Kuya, Kalye, and Top Cop, which were all acronyms, sure, but which were also designed from an idea for the police to support tourism, increase their visibility, and earn the public's respect.

Reports of somebody else certain to get the position of PNP chief, from my end, smells of political patronage, an accepted fact in these police things.

It is not a good message to the rank-and-file of the PNP. All this time, De Leon has been showing that if you do well in your job, you will make it all the way to the top. So far in his career, De Leon never needed political connection to move up.

I thought that was something.

Airline going public in 2006

ASIAN Spirit Inc. aims to become the first airline to list in the stock market as it plans to sell 30 percent of its shares to the public next year, which will allow the company to generate about P300 million in funds for expansion, its top officials said.

The domestic carrier controlled by the families of Jack Po, Noel Oñate and Antonio Turalba has just started a $40-million fleet expansion for this year and next.

It is planning to fly overseas, starting with regional destinations, including China, in the next two years.

Antonio Buendia, president of Asian Spirit, said the company would soon seek the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval for the planned increase in its authorized capital to P1 billion from the current level of authorized and paid-up capital of P300 million.

Buendia said the hike in authorized capital was in line with the plan to sell 30 percent of its shares through an initial public offering next year.

"The plan is to go public as early as 2006. We want to make the company more competitive," said Jack Po, executive vice president.

Asian Spirit secured its 25-year congressional franchise in March 2003 and was given five years to go public.

Unlike other enfranchised entities trying to avoid listing, Asian Spirit wanted to go public way before its 2008 deadline, according to officials.

Asian Spirit recently acquired the first of four newly refurbished British Aerospace 146 jet plane dubbed as Jumbolino. Another unit will arrive in October, the third and fourth units will be shipped in the first half of 2006.

"We started our $40-million refleeting late last year with the arrival of a Dash 7 aircraft. Another Dash 7 will arrive this month. We are acquiring a total of six new planes," said Buendia.

Two of the Jumbolinos are 80 seaters and the other two are 100-seaters. The Dash 7 are 50 seaters.

Asian Spirit is majority owned by a cooperative composed of its three major shareholders and aviation industry professionals, including former staff and employees of other airlines.

The Jumbolino and Dash 7 are new additions to Asian Spirit's current fleet of three Let-4 10 (19-seater), two CN 235 (40-seater), two YS 11 (60-seater) and one ATP British Aerospace (70-seater).

"In the next three to five years, we want to maintain only three types of aircraft because it would be more efficient for the company," said Po.

Po said the 146 jets were expected to cut the travel time to some of the carrier's key destinations like Surigao del Norte, Catarman, Calbayog and the newly opened route, Puerto Princesa.

"When Caticlan expands its airport, we will be looking at bringing the jets there as well," he added. Caticlan is the gateway to top island resort Boracay and it needs expansion by a few hundred feet to accommodate the jet aircraft.

Asian Spirit currently flies to 21 destinations and routes not served by the bigger airlines. These include Batanes, Baguio, Busuanga, Boracay, San Jose Mindoro, Marinduque, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Catarman, Calbayog, Masbate, Catanduanes, Taytay, Palawan, Dipolog, Clark Special Economic Zone, Tuguegarao, Antique, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Manila.

Flights to Ormoc in Leyte, Puerto Princesa in Palawan and Pagadian in Zamboanga will start this month.

The company said its expansion program was in time for the expected surge in tourist arrival in the country. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Unionbank profit up 6%

UNION Bank of the Philippines (Unionbank) announced it earned P2.28 billion in 2004, up 6 percent from P2.15 billion in the previous year.

In a disclosure, Unionbank said it had set aside P350 million in provision for probable losses last year.

Its total resources expanded by P23.8 billion or 30.5 percent to P102.1 billion in 2004, from P78.2 billion in 2003.

Strong deposit generation boosted Unionbank's financial performance.

The bank's aggressive sales drive resulted in a 17.6-percent or P8-billion increase in deposit base to P54.1 billion from P46 billion in 2003.

Time deposits increased by 36.8 percent to P27.8 billion while demand deposits hiked 30.1 percent to P13.8 billion.

The bank's equity base grew by P913 million to P16.2 billion from P15.3 billion while its capital adequacy ratio stood at 43.4 percent, making it among the country's best capitalized banks. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Shares end lower

From page B1

Also pulling down the index were BPI, down 0.9 percent at P56, and San Miguel "B", down 0.7 percent at P76.50.

Globe Telecom's 2.2-percent rise to P940 helped to partly offset the index loss. Despite reporting lower-than-expected 2004 earnings Tuesday, the mobile phone company generated interest after declaring a P20 a share cash dividend and a stock buyback program.

Traders said investor sentiment remained positive, especially following Tuesday's news that the Philippines was given a passing score of 2.0 by Wilshire Associates, the consultant to the California Public Employees' Retirement System, ensuring the country remains on the list of investment sites of the largest US pension fund. AP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30	30.5	575,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56.5	55.5	56	1,629,500
China Banking Corp.	575	575	575	575	330
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46.5	47	46.5	47	188,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,060,000
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	102,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	31.5	31.5	1,695,700
Philippine National Bank	27	28	27	27.5	88,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	1,800
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	83,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	29.5	29.5	40,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2380	2380	2380	2380	370
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.96	2.02	1.96	2	1,199,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	125	126	124	124	3,530
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1750	1765	1750	1765	950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.5	147,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.68	12,690,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	920	940	920	940	272,790
Ipeople Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.4	4.4	51,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.044	0.039	0.039	14,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	5,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	4,999,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1410	1415	1400	1400	96,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	1,220,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17	17	17	2,900
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26	25	25.5	597,800
Petron Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	520,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.64	1.64	1.56	1.58	3,061,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.78	1.64	1.78	55,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	1,311,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	103,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.45	0.45	1,880,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.15	4.25	11,865,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	195,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.35	3.2	3.35	159,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	5,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	165,300
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.82	0.75	0.75	790,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	45,200
San Miguel Corp. B	76.5	77	76.5	76.5	266,700
Universal Robina Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	14,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co., Inc.	12.5	14.75	12.5	14.75	2,400
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	238,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	24,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	4,883,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.75	0.76	1,010,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	2,413,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.03	19,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.9	1.92	1,243,000
APC Group Inc.	0.52	0.55	0.42	0.42	28,210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	202,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	70,000
ATN Holdings Inc	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	18,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	31,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	19.5	21	19.5	20	36,400
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1	1.02	23,384,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	140,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	4,560,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.235	3,400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.41	0.41	0.36	0.38	5,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	5,907,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	3,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	10,202,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.9	9.1	8.9	9	3,837,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41	40.5	41	1,381,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.0975	0.085	0.085	27,400,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.24	1.3	1,514,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	108,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.1	3.1	527,000
Keppel Holdings	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.4	2.4	482,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.46	3,107,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	40,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	3,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	30,160,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.26	0.26	21,060,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.3	1.22	1.28	250,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	70,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	540,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.42	0.5	0.42	0.5	50,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.43	0.46	0.42	0.46	570,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	560,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.16	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,630,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.34	0.49	0.34	0.49	50,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.74	201,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	13,100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	2,570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.08	3,351,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	3,330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.75	17.25	16.5	17.25	608,800
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	13,351,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	160,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	1,042,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	3,390,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.165	0.17	35,060,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.42	0.44	0.41	0.42	31,920,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.46	5,091,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	1,400,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	400,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	940,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.71	1,160,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.12	1,780,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	450,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.76	1.52	1.72	4,401,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.4	5,162,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.95	0.9	0.9	780,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	390,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	160,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.3	7.9	7.9	500,000
Benguet Corp A	9.5	9.8	9.3	9.3	190,000
Benguet Corp. B	10	10	10	10	3,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.1	4.5	4	4	221,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.47	0.47	0.42	0.42	14,740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.51	0.52	0.49	0.5	29,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.024	0.024	471,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.035	312,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.055	821,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.34	1.2	1.22	8,799,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.66	1.72	1.56	1.6	19,756,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	1,620,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	27,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	139,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	62,000
Sinophil Corp	0.125	0.135	0.11	0.115	56,940,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	650,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	6,684,280	185,184,500.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	762,470,140	833,344,905.00
PRO	105,817,000	204,375,410.00
Mining	1,841,659,000	102,624,510.00
OIL	236,682,000	8,512,650.00
GRAND TOTALS:	2,953,312,420	1,334,041,975.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	588.15	DOWN 1.99
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,061.64	DOWN 11.25
PRO	805.99	UP 4.32
Mining	4,007.97	DOWN 153.63
OIL	3.27	DOWN 0.14
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,164.14	UP 8.23
Composite	1,989.65	DOWN 2.81

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31, NO. OF DECLINES: 77, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47, NO. OF TRADED ISS 155, NO. OF TRADES: 5,532

DISCLOSURES

SM PRIME Holdings Inc. confirmed that it raised a P1-billion loan arranged by Banco De Oro Private Bank. The loan has two tranches: a two-year loan with a fixed interest rate of 10.8 percent, and a five-year loan with a fixed interest rate of 12.5 percent.

* * *

HOUSE of Investments Inc. offered to sell 45.34 percent of its holdings in First Malayan Leasing and Finance at P1.2786 per share to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

* * *

JUAN Santos resigned as independent director of Manila Electric following his appointment as trade and industry secretary effective February

* * *

A TOTAL of 136,950 preferred shares of **DMCI Holdings Inc.** will be delisted from the official registry of the Securities and Exchange Commission effective Feb. 2

Compiled by DJ Yap, PDI Research

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

REDENTOR scanning packages at Aboitiz group's 2GO

BEYOND COMMITMENT

Firm hears deaf's call for more jobs

By Lorenzo Manguiat
Contributor

CORPORATE CITIZEN

AT FIRST glance, Diana Pria Banas and Cerdo Redentor seem like any other employee as they carefully rummage through stacks of letters and packages in the courier department of the Aboitiz group's 2GO.

Once other employees start chatting however, one notices that the two seem undisturbed as they silently continue on with their work.

It's because the two are deaf.

Banas, an honor graduate of the DLSU - College of St. Benilde's School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS), was born deaf after her mother had measles during her pregnancy.

Redentor, who had previous OJT experience in Aboitiz as a student of the Philippine School for the Deaf a few years back, was also born deaf.

Along with two others, Banas and Redentor became pioneer deaf trainees at 2GO in July 19 of last year.

The hiring of the deaf trainees was the product of 2GO's desire to give differently-abled Filipinos the same chance at getting a good job as "normal" people.

Initially, Aboitiz One merely thought of getting the deaf to join the company as part of an on-the-job training program.

During one strategic planning session last year, 2GO corporate planning manager Nelson Regalado brought up the idea of tapping the services of differently-abled institutions to get candidates to the OJT program.

Regalado remembered that an old friend, Eric Soriano, was connected with the SDEAS.

"We wanted to help integrate the deaf with the hearing in the work place," recalled Regalado.

One thing led to another and eventually in July 6 of last year, Aboitiz One, Inc. and DLSU-CSB- SDEAS signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a program that would provide undergraduate and graduate deaf students of CSB-SDEAS on-the-job training at Aboitiz One business units.

These days, it is not uncommon for large companies to send a number of differently-abled students to school or provide them with on-the-job training as part of their corporate social responsibility program.

But Aboitiz One, which now carries the brand 2GO, decided to take the OJT a step further because the trainees were doing so well in their jobs.

"We wanted to continue beyond the OJT program. At that time, two encoders left and since the unit leaders were impressed with their (Banas and Redentor's) efficiency, they were ideal for the job and the situation," explained Regalado.

Banas, 23, and Redentor, 28, receive no special treatment and get the same salary as their fellow encoders in their department.

"It's so amusing because the other employees used to chat a lot while working, but now the work place is relatively silent most of the time. Maybe the others were somehow influenced," shared Regalado.

Banas and Redentor's primary responsibilities in 2GO are encoding and documentation.

Redentor said through Soriano, who was with the two encoders during the interview, that his job is relatively manageable, although the work load recently piled up since it's peak season.

He said the workload tends to peak after Christmas and before Holy Week.

But even then, he said he was happy with his job.

Regalado said that there will be a second batch of deaf trainees this month, and the company is discussing the possibility of hiring more deaf employees.

With the contribution from the first four deaf employees, Aboitiz One is finding out that silence is golden, in more ways than one.

Mines seen . . .

From page B1

the local mining industry anticipated a rush of investment inflow from China in the wake of a mining investment roadshow held in Beijing last month.

Romualdez said in a press briefing yesterday that investment pledges from the Beijing mission reached about $1.6 billion.

"This includes at least $100 million from China Metallurgical and Construction Corp.; $200 million from China Non-Ferrous, and $1 billion from Jin Chuan and Bao Steel," he said.

The CMP president added that a $300-million glass manufacturing project planned for construction in Central Luzon was also tied up with a mining component for the supply of silica.

CCCMC chair Chen Haoran, for his part, said he has not been informed of particulars about the business plans in the Philippines of the members of his group.

"Mining projects take time (to start) and right now we are on the stage of learning more about the local situation, government policies and regulations relevant to the industry," Chen said.

"Our members need to be familiar with these matters before they can make strategic (investment) decisions," he said.

Chen said the Chinese firms were particularly interested in iron ore, demand for which has been climbing amid the spectacular growth of the Chinese economy in the past few years.

Aside from iron ore, the Chinese are also interested in copper, nickel and chromite projects.

Romualdez said the the revitalization of the local mining industry, which had been on a decline in the past 20 years, could yield about P57 billion in additional tax revenues for the government.

kotra

KOREA TRADE CENTER, MANILA
announces the holding of:

"PREVIEW IN DAEGU"
Date : MARCH 16 ~ 18, 2005
Venue : Daegu Exhibition & Convention Center
Daegu, Korea
Exhibit Items: Synthetic Fabrics (woven/knit)/ Natural and functional fabrics, yarn, fiber, fancy, home textiles, industrial fabrics, accessories, CAD/CAM
E-business and other related items

DAEGU City is the hub of its textile industry where you will find manufacturers of all kinds of textile fabrics for garments, home and accessories; textile machines and parts, and other related items.

Businessmen who attend the exhibition will be provided the following free of charge:
- 2-night hotel accommodations
- City Tour Package (Pre-Booking)
- PID World Fashion Festival
- Fashion Trends Seminar

For more information, please call 893-1183, 893-3244/812-4079, and fax. 817-3369, c/o Ms.Armi. This is a limited offer.
Deadline: February 15, 2005

For new brokers & non-brokers - set up your own realty firm!
HOW TO START AND MANAGE
A SUCCESSFUL REALTY BROKERAGE COMPANY
Feb 23, 1:30-6 pm, Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Legaspi Vilage, Makati
Covers sales organizations; recruitment techniques; training, advancement & career programs; commission structures, awards & other incentives; how to retain your sales people; how to secure projects & properties for sale; drafting agency agreements, authority to sell, marketing agreements & other docs; selling stages; how to safeguard your commissions; proper networking w/other brokers; franchising; government & licensing rules; ethics & other topics.
For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your name, fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

SHARP
ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTER
Easy Operation that's Easily Affordable
₱ 6,995
XE-A101
Single tape, Numeric
8 departments
80 price look-ups (PLUs)
Locking cash drawer with 3 bill 5 coin compartments
Distributed by:
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC.
for dealership application please call us at Tel. nos.:
MANILA 634 8351 to 59
CEBU (032) 344-1185
DAVAO (082) 221-0585

Chic Uniform, Inc.
WE MAKE UNIFORMS FOR
• OFFICES • SCHOOLS • FACTORIES •
• HOSPITALS • SECURITY GUARDS •
• NURSES • HOUSEKEEPERS •
• READY-MADE SCRUB SUIT•
Unit 27-Q Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Call us: 843-7633 / 843-7539 / 843-7637

Attention tenants and exhibitors!!
F Tiangge
St. Francis SQUARE
Julia Vargas corner Bank Drive,
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
between SM Megamall and The Podium
e-mail us at: sfrancissquare@yahoo.com
- Multi-level shopping venue
- 1,000 plus tiangge stalls
- fully air-conditioned
application forms now available
Register Now!
Call us at: 892-7777 or text us at (0916) 7005999

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT
Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 & up
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.625%	2.875%	3.125%
3 months	2.875%	3.125%	3.375%
6 months	3.125%	3.125%	3.375%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.
Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

ASIAN EYE INSTITUTE
AEI
Asian Care for Asian Eyes

Nothing beats an
eye checkup every year

Don't let the
best years of your life
fade away with age

A simple eye examination can detect early signs of cataract.

The golden years are filled with warm family gatherings and the smiles of grandchildren. But as we age, our risk of blindness from cataract increases.

The symptoms of cataract are quite varied. Changes in color perception and frequent changes in eyeglass prescription are just some of the more subtle and lesser known symptoms. Treatments for cataract have improved, making more efficient surgical procedures available.

Visit your eye doctor today and find out more about cataract, Because there's so much to look forward to.

*AEI is part of the U.S. Embassy Business Service Provider Network and is accredited by Health Vision Corp., Prestige International and PhilHealth.

PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health

Asian Eye Institute
9th & 10th Floors, Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center, Makati City * Tel (632) 898-2020
Email: eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com * Website: www.asianeyeinstitute.com

AEI
CATARACT AD
FINAL ART
PDI size: 5 col. X 24cm
color: blk plus yel
caballero
property

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines

PMAP's HR Agenda For Nation Building: A Call for United Action

(Five-Point Agenda presented by PMAP president, Lina A. Aseneta, FPM, in her Inaugural Report during the 502nd General Monthly Meeting and Induction of the 2005 Officers and Board of Directors at the Garden Hall, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City)

SUNBURST
2005
The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action

Key Strategic Thrusts:

I. Continue to push for strong advocacies by capitalizing on the success we have had in the past and binding the support alliances of other sectors of our society.

- Good Governance
- Labor Code Amendments
- Sound People Management Practices
- Mediation

NATIONAL HR AGENDA

- A Job for Every Filipino
- Creating a Globally Competitive Workplace
- Realigning Labor Policies to Modern Practices
- Eliminating Corruption from Society
- Forming a National Commission to Develop and Oversee the Implementation of National HR Agenda.

II. Strengthen Member Services

III. To launch two start-up organizations:

- Asian Center for Advanced Studies in Business and Human Resource Management
- Investor in People (IiP)

IV. Strengthen our organization with the following initiatives:

- Increase our membership base by a significant number
- Campaign for increased level of volunteerism in PMAP
- Strengthen the financial capability of our Association in order to sustain our various advocacies and programs.

V. In the international scene, we should strengthen our network of International Filipino HR professionals to pave the way to organizing:

- PMAP International Chapters
- Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
– Cebu City
September 28, 2005
"Gawa hindi Dada"
Achieving Results Through Purposive Action

2005 PMAP Officers and Board of Directors

LINA A. ASENETA, FPM
President
(Fernandez, Santos & Lopez)

ROBERT T. POBLETE
Vice President
(Jollibee Foods Corp.)

LUZ CO-LAGUITAO, FPM
Secretary
(Individual Member)

JAIME M. ISIDRO, FPM
Treasurer
(Tri-Q Reposible Service, Inc.)

TERESITA E. DELA CRUZ
Director
(Cardinal Santos Medical Center)

BERNARDETTE M. CUNANAN
Director
(Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation)

MA. LOURDES L. FERNANDO, FPM
Director
(Shindengen Phils. Corp.)

MARCELO V. FERNANDEZ
Director
(Fernandez Colleges, Bulacan)

ARTHUR LUIS P. FLORENTIN
Director
(Manila Electric Company)

MA. ANGELICA B. LLEANDER
Director
(Pfizer, Inc.)

NICASIO L. LIM
Director
(Universal Robina Corporation)

JULIE M. MITERIA
Director
(Shoemart, Inc.)

DANILO P. PANCHO
Director
(Edward Keller (Phils), Inc.)

VILMA C. VALERA
Director
(Individual Member)

TERESITA A. VILLANUEVA, FPM
Director
(Individual Member)

OSCAR L. CONTRERAS JR., FPM
Ex-Officio
Immediate Past President

BARBIE L. ATIENZA, FPM
Ex-Officio
Chair Council of Presidential Advisers
(Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.)

GERARDO A. PLANA, FPM, IPMA-CP
Ex-Officio
Executive Director

Messages

My warmest congratulations to the good men and women of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) for coming up with your 2005 Inaugural Report.

You have done a great job last year. This year, you are again faced with new challenges where you need to develop your plans and programs for the betterment of our society. Your theme, "The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action," speaks well of your noble objectives to build national solidarity and mobilize our human resources in the service of the Filipino nation.

I commend your association for the consistent performance of your role as agents of social and economic transformation. PMAP has carved a niche in Philippine society as a professional organization of civic minded and patriotic individuals.

It is essential that you and I continue to work together to advance our people's aspirations for a better life. My administration is counting on PMAP's help and support as we do our best to cut poverty, create new jobs, eradicate corruption and builds a better future for our people. Together, we can beat the odds!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Greetings!

This year's theme adopted by the 2005 PMAP Board " The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action" comes in the wake of tragedies, disasters and economic hardships being experienced not only in the Philippines, in Asia, but also in other parts of the world. And because the global village has become small due to advances in science and information technology, all the citizens of the world feel the crunch brought about by the above events.

It is now imperative for us, HR practitioners to LEAD in the call for a united action by going back to the basic values of.

- Hardwork and discipline
- Honesty and delicadeza
- Integrity and propriety
- Perseverance and responsibility
- Patriotism and love for country

These are values that should be given priority in the HR Agenda for these are essential in the task of nation building.

While we can go on and on with a list of other values, first and foremost would be the return to spirituality, for no nation can be built without the loving guidance of the Almighty.

I am confident that the 2005 PMAP Board will act and not only pay lip service to their chosen theme for the year.

Congratulations! and my sincere wishes for a productive 2005!

LUCILA C. TARRIELA, FPM
President, Society of Fellows
PMAP President, 1997

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on the association's 2005 Inaugural Report.

This year's PMAP theme "THE HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action" is appropriate as it underscores the role of PMAP as catalyst in effecing progress through responsible management of human resources. As a partner in nation building, the PMAP is engaged in a significant task of developing productive members of the workforce.

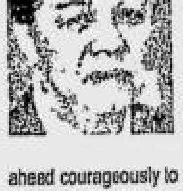
I sincerely admire the association's encouraging outlook for the year 2005 which mirrors the government's call for unity and greater cooperation of all sectors of society. The circumstances that have beset us the past year should not weaken our resolve to achieve our long-term plans and projects. Morever, it should stir us to action and prove that with unity, we can accomplish greater things.

The year ahead may pose varying challenges for all of us, particularly in shaping a better socio-economic landscape for the country. For its part, PMAP's plans and programs should lead to the development and advancement of the Filipino human resources, specifically in upgrading the workers' skills and capabilities. This will boost our efforts to increase productivity in workplaces, expand business, and subsequently provide for better benefits to the workers. This will certainly satisfy both labor and management and , thus, contribute to the maintenance of industrial peace in the country which is an essential component in attaining progress.

In behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) I wish PMAP a fruitful and meaningful year ahead with all its noble endeavors. I am truly grateful that an association such as yours has become a dependable ally of the Department.

Mabuhay!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary



A meaningful and prosperous new year to all!

Taking stock of the year that was, we reflect on the triumphs and tragedies of 2004 and its effects on us from a personal, professional and global point of view. And as we move on, we take with us the lessons gleaned from "what was" and "what could have been" and forge ahead courageously to attain the "what should be."

The same can be said for our beloved PMAP. We have accomplished so much in the past years. No one can discount the fact that PMAP's achievements have made an impact not only on a few individuals but on whole communities, not only on a few groups but to entire sectors and not only in one region but to the whole country.

And still, there is so much more we can do.

The winds of change are upon us and as the New Year brings with it new goals, new perspectives, and a fresh look at the future, I would like to welcome Ms. Lina Aseneta, PMAP's new President and her Board as they take on the challenges of 2005.

Congratulations to all of you! In behalf of the HRM Foundation, we wish you President Lina and your Board, success in all your endeavors, conviction in all your pursuits and the guidance of God in all your decisions.

God bless us all!

RENE M. GENER
President
Human Resource Management Foundation

I extend my felicitations to the dynamic Officers and Board Members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) as it enters yet another year of reinvigorating enthusiasm as an indispensable partner of the government in effective nation-building.

Notably, your organization has renewed hopes of further strengthening the ranks of our many human relations managers who are at the helm of various organizations in the country. Since its inception, the PMAP has immensely contributed to stirring and steering the reins of administrative governance imperative to societal change. Your well-meaning advocacies on multifarious issues of national significance have inspired other non-governmental organizations to follow suit. Undoubtedly, such a staunch display of civic consciousness is a force to reckon with especially in the midst of constant change both at the local and global arena.

It is within the context of this year's theme: "The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action," that I implore on your many good men and women to uncompromisingly continue your programs and projects particularly on areas that necessitate sustained collective action. And I am confident that with your current high-caliber leadership, your organization will be more than able to uphold the virtues which we commonly hold dear for the benefit of our countrymen.

Again, kudos to your organization for what will certainly be a great year of tremendous accomplishments!

BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.
Representative
Lone District of Mandaluyong

Times are indeed changing, including the adversities and challenges that we face day by day. And with this is a call for new paradigms and strategies that enable us to rise above it all and emerge better, bigger and stronger. The nation, set against the same backdrop, likewise finds it imperative to respond as well. And it is now no longer difficult for all to realize that to catapult us into a future we all aspire for, we need to focus on our most valuable resource – people. We, human resource management practitioners now have this golden moment in our hands. We need to participate actively and vigorously in helping the country's leadership in trekking the path towards a better Philippines through better Filipinos.

PMAP this year, with our theme "The HR Agenda of Nation Building: A Call for United Action", takes the calling to a higher level. We cull from our collective expertise and experience to bring upon all concerned into realizing the real importance of consciously and deliberately developing, empowering and caring for our people in all sectors, at all levels, regardless of demographics. But in order to do this, we PMAPers need to heed the call ourselves first. We need to close ranks, break down barriers, and join forces in delivering this gospel of nation building through human wealth.

Congratulations and the best of all wishes to this year's PMAP leadership. I, along with all our past presidents, officers, directors and the general membership, join you in pursuing the huge and important task that we take upon ourselves for the sake of our beloved Inang Bayan! MABUHAY!

BARBIE L. ATIENZA
PMAP President 1998
2005 Presidential Adviser

The wealth of any organization, corporation and even government is its human resource. Its success or failure lies not just on an excellent leadership but on the availability of good, skilled, honest and competent workforce.

The role, then, of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), in improving various institutions' human aspect of management and the development of their human resources has never been more important. For 49 years, the PMAP has been on the forefront of advancing the practice of human resource management in the community and the country. It has consistently helped members become more effective on the job by developing their profession, and by offering numerous career opportunities and services. It has also served as a training ground for future personnel managers.

May you continue your mission to help mold more enlightened, competent, socially responsible and influential human resource management practitioners so they can effectively deal with the challenges and responsibilities inherent in the profession and nation building. Moreover, may your organization be always responsive to the needs of your members and may it attain continued growth and stability.

Wishing you more success for 2005 and may God bless your organization richly.

NEPTALI M. GONZALES II
Mayor
City of Mandaluyong

"We cannot become who we need to be by remaining who we are."

As a new Board for year 2005 takes over, this adage still rings true if PMAP is to continue providing meaning and relevance to the pursuit of its efforts towards nation building, while continuing to nurture the competencies of the HR professional.

The 2005 Board decided on the right course to pursue when it followed up last year's theme with a call to action. Action suggests more vigorous movement, a single-mindedness in purpose and direction and the relentless drive to place PMAP at the forefront of nation-building efforts while providing more quality services to its members.

During these times when the nations seems to continue to dance in the dark and amidst a sense of drift, PMAP's active and continued participation in national efforts to create more jobs, enhance the quality and productivity of its workforce, actively pursue much needed, reforms in the Labor Code which has outlived its usefulness and lead the way (both in the government and the private sectors) in effecting a change in our people's values and ethics and transforming the quality of leadership are the steps in the right direction.

We wish the new Board the blessings of the Almighty as it tackles what promises to be a challenging year and the wisdom, boldness and courage to pursue its programs in advancing advocacies while nurturing competencies.

OSCAR L. CONTRERAS, JR., FPM
PMAP Immediate Past President

Our warmest felicitations to the Board of Directors, Officers and members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

The ushering of the year 2005 and a new leadership of PMAP provide a whiff of fresh air and renewed vigor as it charts new directions and formulates innovative strategies to make it an even responsive and responsible organization of human resource practitioners.

Developing synergies between and among organizations is inevitable and necessary if they are to make a difference in a highly interdependent society. ECOP and PMAP, through its long history of cooperation and amity, should forge an even stronger relationship. In the context of their specific mandates and within their spheres of influence, these two organizations could create a stronger impetus towards a more stable labor-management relations, increased productivity and better competitiveness.

Your theme, "The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action," for this year, demonstrates PMAP's strong commitment to rally the organization's prime movers and decision-makers to take a pro-active and primary role in working for the country's growth and progress.

We wish PMAP all the success it richly deserves as it treks new pathways and scales greater heights.

RENE Y. SORIANO
Presider
Employers Confederation of the Philippines

Your 2005 Board has adopted the theme The HR Agenda for Nation Building: A Call for United Action. Yes, it is the second phase of last year's pillar: the birth of a HR Agenda that promoted hope and courage in the midst of adversities and difficulties our country experienced.

There are two (2) new but compelling words in our theme – UNITED and ACTION.

UNITED – indeed, there is very little we can do acting alone. One of our greatest challenges is to muster collective wisdom and mobilize energy for the common good. Different sectors of society must unite in order to create greater impact. We ought to abandon the "kanya-kanya" mentality for us to create a prosperous society of happy people. Let us see our PMAP play an active role in bringing this to reality.

ACTION – As one nation of God-blessed people, we ought to ceaselessly prove our capability to get meaningful things done. Words may be necessary but it is action we desire.

It is not simply a question of getting motivated but a contention of harnessing willpower through a potent combination of energy and focus that we are able to realize the tasks ahead. I believe that developing willpower will drive us to achieve our [illegible] goals over and above inevitable barriers, setbacks and distractions that come our way. We have no other choice but to hurdle, survive and win! Turning back is no longer an option. It is high time to roll up our sleeves and put our hands on deck altogether!

With focus on the PMAP Key Strategic Thrusts, this year's administration envisions to:

1. Continue to push for strong advocacies by harnessing the success that we have had in the past and binding the support, attention and alliances of other sectors of our society. Advance our advocacies on Good Governance, Labor Code and Mediation. Herald the National HR Agenda, with PMAP at the helm, for A Job for Every Filipino, Create a Globally Competitive Workplace, Attune Labor Policies to Modern Practices, Remove Corruption from Society and Create a National Commission to Develop and Oversee the Implementation of the HR Agenda.

2. Strengthen member services by providing members the exhilaration of being called PMAPers. Reinforce the growth of HR professionals by offering more innovative learning experience. Provide quality service to members that will in turn encourage more active participation and involvement.

3. Secure approval from CHED the accreditation and curriculum of PMAP's Asian Center for Advanced Studies in Business and Human Resource Management for its opening within the year. Launch the Investor in People (IiP), a corporate certification process for sound people management practices.

4. Strengthen our organization by increasing our membership base. Campaign for more volunteers especially our new members to do their share to help us achieve our goals. Review PMAP's strategy to raise more revenues to make our organization financially stronger to sustain our advocacies and programs. Establish a network of international Filipino HR professionals to make way to organizing the PMAP International Chapter to demonstrate our global competitiveness.

5. Continue and enhance our meaningful relationships with international HR associations through our leadership roles in the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM).

We want to see these desired changes happen thru UNITED ACTION with emphasis on member services, increase in membership, advocacies, external linkages, spirit of volunteerism and financial strength.

An anonymous author wrote, "People are made to be loved and things are made to be used. That's why there is so much chaos in the world because people are being used and things are being loved." This, my dear PMAPers, is our greatest HR challenge in this period of confused priorities. We must together act as one united body so that we can speak with a louder voice and be assured that our message is heard. We believe we can make a difference!

LINA A. ASENETA, FPM
President

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo greets well-wishers during the inauguration of the Robinsons Bus Terminal in Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quezon City. The terminal is a joint undertaking of the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Quezon City government and Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC). With the President are MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and RLC officials headed by its executive vice president Frederick D. Go.

Joint legislative-executive tax commission proposed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is pushing for the creation of a Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission aimed at easing the passage of urgent tax measures.

Outgoing Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said in a briefing that with a dedicated body that will craft the country's tax bills, vital revenue-raising measures will not face rough sailing in Congress, thus, passed in time to address the country's budget woes.

The DOF proposed that the tax commission be composed of selected senators, congressmen and top economic officials from the executive branch.

Amatong said she already raised the idea with several congressmen, who said that it would need legislation.

The DOF is preparing a draft bill that will create the tax commission, she said.

"With this body, there will be a general agreement on the tax bills even before they go through Congress," Amatong told reporters.

There was a similar body in the 1960s, but it was dissolved after the late president Ferdinand Marcos abolished Congress.

The DOF said there was again a need to create a venue for legislators and economic officials to let their minds meet on various tax proposal amid the difficulty of having the national government's revenue-raising measures passed by Congress.

The measures are aimed at easing the government's budget woes, and thus save the country from a costly credit-rating downgrade.

The controversial proposal to raise the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent, which passed the Lower House, is facing an uphill climb at the Senate.

The VAT hike bill, which will be the biggest revenue contributor among all the tax proposals, has been branded as anti-poor by some legislators.

The proposed VAT increase is estimated to bring in P35 billion in additional revenue a year. This is almost half of the yearly incremental revenue the government needs to wipe out the budget deficit in 2010 or earlier.

Court asked to dismiss case vs Semirara

THE CANCELLATION of a pasture lease within the mining area of Semirara Mining Corp. has become final and can no longer be contested in court, the company claimed in a petition filed the other day with the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court.

As such, the court does not have jurisdiction over the complaint filed by HGL Development Corp. for the lifting of the cancellation of its pasture lease by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in December 2002, the company added in the same petition.

HGL filed two cases on the same cancellation issue simultaneously in November 2003—one in Caloocan and another in Culasi, Antique, without disclosing to the courts the pendency of the other.

Semirara said in its petition that this constituted forum shopping and non-disclosure was ground for dismissal.

Court records showed that in 1984, HGL got from DENR a 367-hectare pasture lease inside Semirara's mining area, which was granted by the Department of Energy in 1977.

In December 2000, DENR cancelled the pasture lease. This order became executory after the DENR finally denied HGL's motion for reconsideration. No appeal was made by HGL either to the Office of the President or the Court of Appeals.

But in 2003, HGL filed similar cases simultaneously. It asked the Culasi court to allow it to recover its pasture land in Semirara and challenged in the Caloocan court the DENR cancellation order. Semirara asked and was allowed to be intervenor in the latter.

GMA-7 questions ERC decision on Meralco refund

By Abigail L. Ho

GMA Network Inc. and regional arm RGMA Network are challenging through the Court of Appeals the Energy Regulatory Commission's decision exempting the Manila Electric Co. from paying interest on refunds due to commercial and industrial customers.

In a statement issued yesterday, the two firms said Meralco should pay the appropriate interest charges on the total amount due them as the distribution utility had already been able to benefit from the extra cash collected from customers from February 1994 to April 2003.

GMA Network alone, according to the network's in-house computation, is entitled to almost P6.5 million in rebates. RGMA should receive more than P179,000.

Citing a Supreme Court case involving Eastern Shipping Lines as a precedent, GMA Network legal counsels Gener Asuncion and Yvonne Angeli Lee-Tupas of the Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Offices said Meralco should pay interest at 6 percent a year from February 1994 to April 2003, and at 12 percent a year for the period starting April 2003 until the refundable amount had been remitted in full.

Asuncion added that the ERC did not even have to order Meralco to pay interest on the refund for the distribution utility to have to do so.

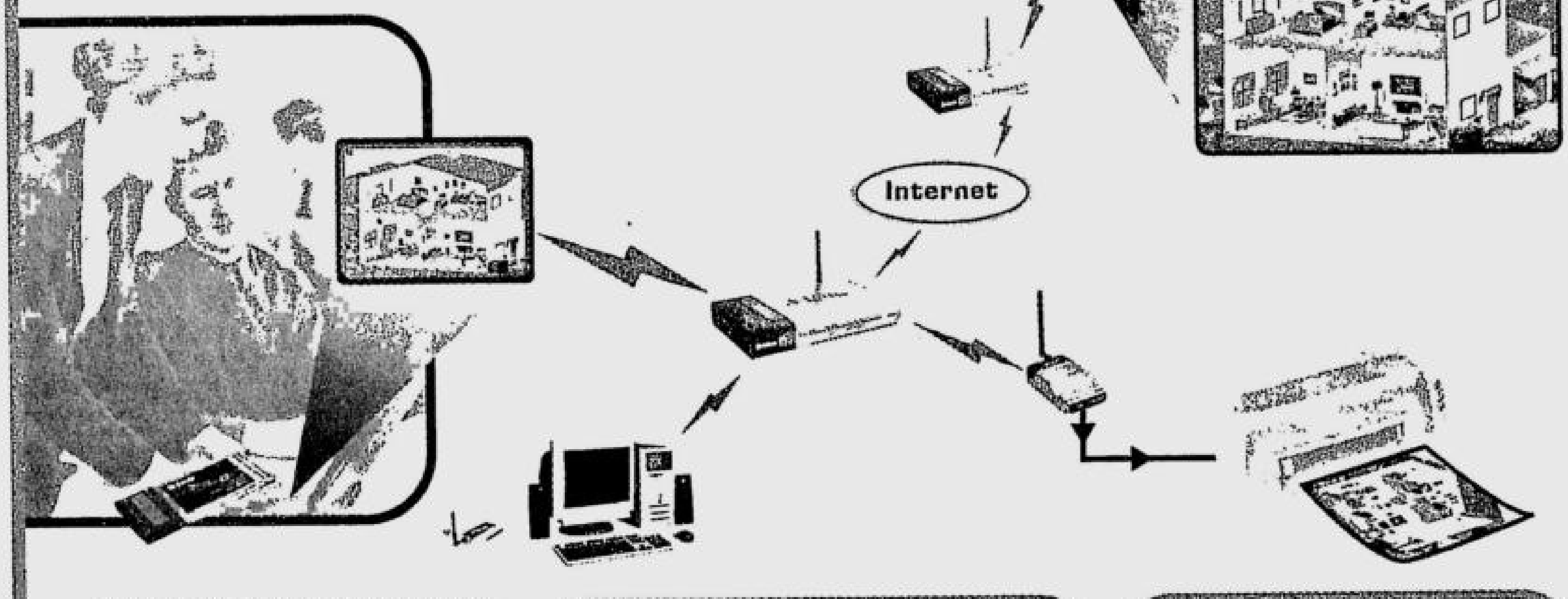
He said this was "because the interest is statutory or imposed by law."

"It is just fair and moral for Meralco to pay interest as it used and benefited from the money of its customers when it over-collected the electric bills," he said.

The ERC last month allowed Meralco to implement the first tranche of the last phase of its P30-billion refund for overcharges.

Meralco assistant vice president and refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said in an earlier statement that this tranche covered 103,425 small commercial and industrial customers entitled to a total refund of almost P2.3 billion.

Other customers covered by this tranche include government hospitals and metered streetlights with a total contracted demand of less than 40 kilowatts. Streetlight customers paying a flat rate are likewise included.



D-Link Total IP-Based Camera Solution
8X AirPlusXtremeG+
For Total Mobility & Total Peace of Mind

See communication and surveillance in a different light with D-Link's new generation of IP-based camera solutions. Be seen and heard any time, anywhere, as well as view live, full motion video with full playback capability on your existing wired or wireless computer network.

Better yet, all D-Link IP cameras come with FREE surveillance software, which turns your PC into a powerful surveillance system capable of controlling and monitoring all D-Link cameras, so that you keep a close eye on things round the clock while you're away.

DCS-5300W
IEEE 802.11b
Standalone Wireless IP Web Camera with Built-in Mic, MPEG 4, CCD Sensor, Pan & Tilt function
(ESD-0201497C)
P33,240

DCS-900W
Standalone 11Mbps
Wireless IP Web Camera with Web Server Built-in
(ESD-0301714C)
P12,900

DCS-2100+
IEEE 802 11b
Standalone Wireless IP Web Camera with Built-in Mic, MPEG 4
(ESD-0301714C)
P22,560

DWL-G520+
88Mbps**/54Mbps IEEE 802.11g
Wireless PCI Adapter
(ESD-0301715C)
P3,100

DWL - G650+
88Mbps**/54Mbps IEEE 802.11g
Wireless PCMCIA Adapter
(ESD-0301714C)
P3,100

DWL-G122
54 Mbps IEEE 802 11g
Wireless USB 2.0 Adapter
(Coming Soon)
P3,900

DI-624+
88**/54Mbps IEEE 802.11g
Wireless Broadband Router with built-in 4-port 10/100Mbps Switch
(ESD-0301713C)
P4,450

**Using properiety modulation technology with large frames to achieve throughput that's comparable to 88Mbps - code name "8X".

Authorised Distributors

Phil-Data Business Systems, Inc
PHIL-DATA BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel: (02)781-0581 to 84 / 811-2878 to 91
Fax: (02)731-2008

UPLINK INFORMATION SYSTEM, INC.
UPLINK INFORMATION SYSTEM, INC.
Tel (02) 910-6460/63/67/68, 687-7221/3
Fax: (02) 910-6462, 687-4037

PARTICIPATING RESELLERS:

ALABANG CITY (+02)	
PC Express - Alabang	772-2282 to 85
BACOLOD CITY (+034)	
BCG	434-2539, 434-2532
IECC	433-9472, 434-3249/5727
CABANATUAN CITY (+044)	
Vilman Computer System Inc. Cabanatuan	600-2000/463-9823/37
CEBU (+032)	
Abscor/ Electroworld	345-2780
Accent Micro - Cebu branch	232-0462
CBX Corporation	231-3714/4389/4801
PC Express - Cebu	234-3551/4366
Thinking Tools	254-2227
ILOILO (+033)	
Concept Computer Center	337-7221/6874, 335-0753
Delta Merchandising	335-0858,336-3196/4509
LAS PINAS CITY (+02)	
NT Computer Mart - Southmall	802-2160
LEGASPI (+052)	
All Electronics	480-6011/6215, 820-2922, 214-3481
MAKATI (+02)	
Best Buy Computer Inc.	894-2671
Electroworld (Greenbelt 1)	813-2654, 892-9120
Electroworld (Parksquare 1)	812-3880, 813-2776/6145
Imaginet International	895-9755
Infoworx Incorporated	897-5384/4521
Microboss Incorporated	813-7603
Micro Pacific Tech & System Corp.	840-4583
PC Corner - Glorietta	893-0630
PC Express - Pasong Tamo	893-8537/9505
Prodata Systems	894-1571/1576, 845-1880, 888-8556
Vilman Computer System Inc - Ayala	892-2222,893-0532
MANDALUYONG (+02)	
Accent Micro - Megamall Branch	634-2417
Brochure Megamall	633-8221/2172-73, 634-1296/4601
Electroworld	633-1824
PC Corner	535-5373, 631-8786, 723-1737
PC Express - Shaw	718-3938
PC Express - Shandan	633-4370/2441
PC Live - Megamall Branch	634-2438
NT Computer Mart - Shang-rila Plaza	634-4347
NT Computer Mart - SM Megamall	633-4890
Vilman Computer System Inc. SM Mega Mall	883-0532 to 33
MANILA (+02)	
Best Buy Computer Inc.	254-8586/8876
BPL	302-6327
Information Products Corporation	721-5250
Integrated Computer Systems, Inc.	727-3801
Jostech	521-5310
SVC Enterprises	522-8603 to 06
Total Quality Machines	526-4503 local 21 & 22
MUNTINLUPA CITY (+02)	
Accent Micro - Festival Mall Branch	771-0779
NAGA CITY (+054)	
All Electronics	811-3624/5
NAKPIL, MALATE (+02)	
Columbia Technologies	524-0393, 400-7981
OLONGAPO CITY (+047)	
Vilman Computer System Inc	224-6881
PASIG (+02)	
Complink Marketing	687-1234/3160
QUEZON (+02)	
Accent Micro - North Edsa Branch	426-9829
Blas Edward's Computer	434-4967/8
My Mobile Solution Computer Shop - Eastwood	687-2559
NT Computer Mart - SM North	927-2579
PC Click Computer Center - Gilmore	705-1734/1488, 724-5798/5378
PC Corner - Gilmore	723-1718, 726-7858
PC Corner - West Ave	921-2005
PC Express - Gilmore	726-5041
PC Express - Katipunan	433-6800/6802/6804
PC Gilmore	410-1210, 721-3496
PC Live - North Edsa Branch	925-5688
Silicon Valley	371-5614 to 20
The Web Diamond Computer System	725-0173/6
Vilman Computer System Inc, - Eastwood City	687-43/47
Vilman Computer System Inc. - Pag-asa	929-041, 920-6464 to 67
Vilman Computer System Inc. - Cubao	912-8172
Vilman Computer System Inc. - SM North Edsa	926-7322 to 33
Vilman Computer System Inc. - West Avenue	373-9872 to 76
SAN JUAN (+02)	
Acenet MicroComputer	725-0762/0759/4276
PC Corner - Virra Mall	727-1834
PC Quarters - Virra Mall	721-0361
PC Express - Edsa	726-0410/3959/5918
SORSOGON (+056)	
All Electronics	211-1515, 421-5224
TONDO MANILA (+02)	
PC Express - Abad Santos	253-9832/1024

D-Link
Building Networks For People
www.dlink.com.ph

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
V D GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

DENTAL

2 Lic. Lady Dentist
Call 8265824 8262225 Pque

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI (02)8347357

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

Candy 8971506;09212085309

MALE/F 09192714842 BEAN

MASSAGE 8547144 BILLY

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

Reflex Massage 0915-4083339

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE 752-0018

REFLEXOLOGY

Therapeutic Massage Olc 5344003

Edgar Reflex 7571013

★★Feels Good 4127758★★

I-spa Citland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

AmSpeak/Languages 8944311 7570926

GBG TUTORIAL 6876581

HOUSEHOLD

EFFICIENT MAIDS PROV'L. & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS SCREENED W/REF. NBI POL. CLEAR. 873-7055•873-5062•873-7057

NEWLY ARRIVED PROVINCIAL MAIDS MIDWIFE NURSE YAYA COOK LABA H'GIRL/BOY DRIVER SCREENED W/CLEAR. CALL "JOY" 872-2792•872-0265•873-5271

TRUSTED MAID/COOK/YAYA 5343068

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

Best Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

DIRECT MAIDS,YAYA, COOK 7289060

Good Maid Yaya 4532752

Good Maids Yaya Driver 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8294261

TRUSTWORTHY, DISIPLINADO MAID DRIVER CALL 7252645 • 7250298

IVYLANA MAIDS 9268984 YAYA 4331431

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

QUEZON CITY

*Kamias #11 K-I cor K-6th NEW * 9210255 9219967 9209822

SAN JUAN

6000m² SITE 4 Hospital, Condo, Thse, Shpng Ctr or Any? 0918-6187744 or 941-51-29

HOUSE & LOT

"YOUR DREAM HOME AT A DREAM PRICE"
NOVALICHES CALOOCAN & SAN JOSE BULACAN
4171637• 09184529306

LAS PINAS

P1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

MANILA

SAN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN
2sty Hse LA350m² corner 5BR 4TB 6471240•4395075•09175312376

QUEZON CITY

FILINVEST II Q.C. 280m²-LA 350m²-FA P4M RUSH 4BR 4TB 2-sty 6319877 / 09178999797

HORSESHOE VILLAGE
LA-1360m² 2sty hse+guest hse/olc pool very quiet garden elevated 6471240•4395075•09175312376

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CAG DE ORO 300sqm 3BR 2TB 1.5M 09175330491

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

LAGUNA

BINAN P400T/mo 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M CONDO RESORT!
15 mins 2 Market D Fort 2-4br 10% dp 12T/mo. Rent 2 Own! 0922-8086855

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

RENT TO OWN Condo 2-4br 12T Nr D Fort / Market' 0917-7469270 / 0920-7761824

PASIG

RENAISSANCE 3000 3BR 9M 10.5M 14M 412-1825

Rent 2Own Condo 2br/30K Ortigas Chel 0915-5838525

QUEZON CITY

GALERIA CORPORATE Tower 107sqm w/view f-furn P4.8M Call 6873372; 09178102903

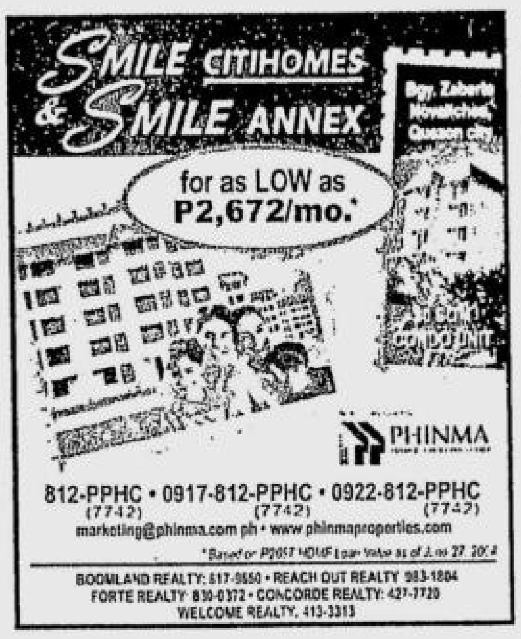
Teachers Village 44sqm 2BR w/ Prkng furn shed P1.8M 30%DP Bal-bank / dotrd cash Call 6873372 / 0917-8102903

TAGUIG

SERENDRA
THE LEGACY AT MONTGOMERY
T- 924 1749 / 928-0512 /
0917 8541622 Mrs Lopez

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



SMILE CITIHOMES & SMILE ANNEX
Bgy. Zabarte Novaliches, Quezon city
for as LOW as P2,672/mo.*
CONDO UNIT
PHINMA
812-PPHC • 0917-812-PPHC • 0922-812-PPHC
(7742) (7742) (7742)
marketing@phinma.com.ph • www.phinmaproperties.com
*Based on P2057 HDMF Loan Value as of Jan 27 2004
BOOMLAND REALTY: 817-9650 • REACH OUT REALTY 983-1804
FORTE REALTY 830-0372 • CONCORDE REALTY: 427-7720
WELCOME REALTY, 413-3313

LOT

LAS PINAS

PHILAM LA694 P7500 / m²
AL 874-1465 / 0918-937-2571

QUEZON CITY

Exclusive Res'l Lot nr Ateneo/UP/Miriam 204m²@P8.5th 09189235216

KATIPUNAN EXT COM'L beside future Kenny Rogers 1,100m² & 451m²@P9.5th/m² 454-5667 / 0918- 9235216

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view, Sweden Street available 426-5650, 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

WEST TRIANGLE HOMES QC 434 3sqm w/old house
SACRED HEART VIL-7 QC
Near SM Fairview 300-1200 Sqm (02)-4110352
0917-5140323

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m²-up 3.56B/m² 134T D/P 6 Mos to pay 6T Mo. nr Taal Vista 6609372

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR mds rm 2 sty Twnhse full furn 2TB Ecoville nr Ayala Ave. Tel. - 896-4883

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

5000m² Lot 2500m² covered Quirino Hwy Mindanao Ave 3phase strong h²o secured Tom 0917-8357142 / 9311313

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Nr Chin. Gen Mla 7836781

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

CUBAO Shp 500m² 25T 7257342

Derma/Clinic Space 5344003

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring pnv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

35m² 2/Flr MDA Bldg P8T Nr Mand City Hall 7232983

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

260m² w/5 Offices 5487 Boyle St Palanan Mkt 864 0067

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

Capitolyo 6BR 16M 631-3496

Maybunga 3BR 2TB 6353151

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

GLXI 95" WEEL MAINTAINED NOTHING TO FIX 2727813

VOLVO

98 VOLVO S70
AT P475T
0917-5383184

SPECIAL CARS

01 Suburban LT Black
GM-maintained
All Auto/Orig. Low Mlage
Call 0920-9040510

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 534-4003, 0919-3220871

CAR VANS 929-2811 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB 7415897•09208328657

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

LAKBAY 951-9481

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7860183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We are announcing the dissolution of MARUSO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION effective December 31, 2004 as per board resolution dated December 20, 2004.

We are inviting all creditors and concern parties to contact us for any final settlement at 702 Citystate Centre, Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Any transaction entered on and before the said date will be no longer entertained.

(PDI–Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-2050952

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
TRAINS w/FULL GUARANTEE
TEL. 0917-8489308

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Feb. 11, 2005, Wed.at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, Sept. 13 - Oct. 11, 2004 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI - February 3, 2005)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Camambo Br. of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on Feb. 11, 2005, Fri at 10:30 11:00, 12:30, 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively Sept 13 - Oct. 11, 2004.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer
(PDI February 3 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

May PERA sa PUTO 564-2759

FREE REPORT: HOW TO MAKE A FORTUNE WITHOUT WINNING THE LOTTO! WANTED DISTRIBUTORS. http://takemeto.biz/natures 09196431613

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

Laundry Eqpt 4Rent 4Hoover Wash 2WhirlPool Dry 10kg Including Stall @ New Mla QC for P201 mo 723 2981

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Sec.Agency/DermaClnc 6313496

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Brake & Clutch Reliner Pasig Area 641-8567 Rey

FEMALE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Computer literate w/exp
8437633/37 • 8437539

HOST RECEPTIONIST W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY N GOOD COMM. SKILL 8229263

Receptionist @ SM Megamall 17-28 Yrs Old 0917-8398638

SECRETARY 721-5055 721-2797 / 843-3548

Vacancy: Female Teacher II: OSEC-DECS B-30279-2004, BSE w/Valid License, Sta Lucia H.S. Div. of Pasig City & San Juan

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

CAREGIVER T4043528

DEP ED MARIKINA CITY
OSEC - DECSB MTCH2 - 30746 30744 MTCHR1-31508; 31453; 30080 TCH3 - 30109; 36609; 36355; 36263 TCH2 - 36140; 36200 TCH1 - 47775; 47967; 47772; 47953; 47595; 47606; 31445 LET - PBET PASSER

WANTED

Professional Urban Design Draftsman / CAD Designer

The Urban Planning and Development Authority of the State of Qatar is recruiting a team of professional draftsmen to prepare presentation exhibits for the Master Plan of Qatar.

Job Description: Prepare presentation exhibits and maps that support urban design solutions, urban planning proposals, and general presentations to upper management. Assesses current land database of the Planning Authority to capture required planning data and reorganize data in such a fashion to be used for analysis;

Required Skills: The candidate should have 5 years experience in drafting architectural and planning presentations, graphic design, mapping, and/or geography;

Education: BS/BA in planning, architectural design, graphic design, or a related field.

Email resumés to **HADLE62@yahoo.com** with "Draftsman Resumé" in the subject line. Salary is commensurate upon experience.

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTION MANAGER

An international seafood company is looking for a motivated person to join our new Value Added seafood processing project in Roxas City, Capiz.

This person must possess the following:

- Food Science Degree
- Previous experience in Value Added Food Production/RD
- MUST be a hands on worker, this is not an office position
- HACCP certified with thorough food safety, GMP and sanitation knowledge
- Thorough knowledge of process control
- Strong personal management skills
- Computer literate

In addition to overseeing the VA production, basic R/D work will also be part of this position's responsibilities.

This position will require brief training in Indonesia so a valid passport is necessary.

Send full resumé with picture to:

C.B. Fuentesfina & Co.
Business Consultants & CPA'S
2/F JTL Bldg. BS Aquino Drive'
Bacolod City, 6100

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Pharmacist 6915513 • 09178512031

SALES MKTG STF 09178451373

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Supreme Court of the Philippines
COMMITTEE ON HALLS OF JUSTICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites contractors to register, apply for eligibility and bid for the supply of labor, tools, equipment, materials and supervision for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Palace of Justice, Cebu City.

Project Description	Approved Budget	Expected Date of Commencement of Work	Project Duration	Source of Fund
Renovation and Restoration of the 4-storey Palace of Justice Building Cebu City	P9.7M	15 May 2005	180 calendar days	Judiciary Development Fund

Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 (The Government Procurement Reform Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

I. SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF INTENT AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

All prospective bidders must submit either personally or through an authorized representative their letter of intent and eligibility requirements on 17 February 2005, between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at either of the following venues:

(1) Old Session Hall, Supreme Court
Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila

(2) Library, 4th Floor
Palace of Justice, Cebu City

II. NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE BIDDERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

Prospective bidders shall be informed of the results of the eligibility check by 25 February 2005. Bid documents will be made available to the eligible contractors from 28 February to 07 March 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00

III. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 17 March 2005 at the Palace of Justice, Cebu City at 2:00 p.m.

IV. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS

All bids must be submitted at the Palace of Justice, Cebu City on 7 April 2005 by 11:00 a.m.; the bids shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

Award shall be made to the bidder who submitted the lowest calculated bid and who is post-qualified.

For additional information, contact Atty. Peter John Javier or Engr. Arnold Paradero at (02) 552-9589 to 94.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or to waive any defect or informality therein.

03 February 2005.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Chairman, CHOJ-BAC

(PDI-Feb 3 & 10 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Mortuary - Crematory

*The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

HIS EXCELLENCY DON ENRIQUE P. SYQUIA

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & PLENIPOTENTIARY
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

(May 22, 1930 – February 1, 2005)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 1, 2005 at the age of 74.

His beloved wife, **Letty Corpus Syquia**, children: **Jose Fernando, Rev. Fr. Jose Francisco, Jose Martin, Jose Tomas** & **Jose Luis**; daughters-in-law: **Czarina, Joanne, Beth** & **Tess**; grandchildren: **Jas, Bea, Lawrence, Carel, Francis, Alfonso, Agu, Azi, Kiara** & **Kendra**; sisters and brothers-in-law: **Lourdes** & **Felix** (†) **Bautista, Pacita** & **Romeo** (†) **Almario**; brothers: **Jess, Ramon, Victor** & **Manuel**; sisters-in-law: **Andrea, Inday, Carol, Binnie** (†); brothers and sisters-in-law: **Hector** & **Doris Corpus, Marius** & **Elizabeth Corpus, Caesar** & **Joy Corpus, Carlos Corpus** (†) & **Raquel**; sister and brother-in-law, **Flor** (†) & **Benjie Ledesma**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for him to the Father Almighty to grant him eternal peace.

Remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen and Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Everyday masses during the wake at 6:00 p.m. Funeral Mass and Necrological services will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church. Cremation and private interment will follow.

* *In lieu of flowers, make donations to San Carlos Seminary.*

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas. Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St. Guadalupe Makati City. Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St. Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Tel 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel Nos. 843-8838/30. Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City: Tels 852-8228, 852-7284
• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3084
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz Manila. Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels 749-3679, 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila Tels 493-4458, 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tel 302-5447
• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
28 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City. Tels 942-6044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City:
Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
• PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax. 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque. Tels 820-1592, 825-9947; 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City.
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St. Pasay City; Tels 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4838
• PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City;
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City. Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave cor Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City:
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867, 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels 372-5084; 410-9286/87
• TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels 642-3010; 633-3802
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL
• ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Buglong Road, Legaspi City; Tels (052) 820-0188, 0917-2074152
• BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel. 433-7132
• BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
• BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan, Tels (047) 2370643 • 7911766
• BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011, Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
• CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite,
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
• CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels 231-0721, 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City:
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur. Tel 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142, Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels (049) 562-1068, 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963
• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entiero cor P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels (045) 888-2950; (045) 322-5247
• RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No 8 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782 697-0026 650-7426. Fax 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal
Tels 649-5949, 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels 651-1711, 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels 645-1855
• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605 (047) 811-1086 (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES** WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

The Missionary Sister
Servants of the Holy Spirit
Announce the death of

SISTER EVARITA, S.Sp.S. (SALUD PAGUIO)

on February 2, 2005 at the age of 95.
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City
Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Friday, February 4, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit
#8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.
Interment will follow at the Chirst the King Cemetery
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

On his First Death Anniversary
We lovingly remember

Col. ALEXIS S. ALDEGUER, PA (Ret.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 3, 2004 at the age of 60.

His wife **Amy**; his children **Yvette, Jo-Anne** and **Glenn Harris, Christine, Alexandra, Nicole** and **Carlo**; his grandchildren **Marc Harris, Antonio Alexis, Diego** and **Gabbie** would like to extend their sincerest thanks to all those who continue to keep him in their prayers.

> "I have fought
> the good fight,
> I have finished
> the race, I have kept
> the faith."
> 2 Timothy 4

RENE C. ALDIOSA

March 25, 1954 – January 31, 2005

Rene leaves behind the family he loved and who will miss him so dearly, his wife **Gladys Rose**, his children, **Nicole Roxanne** and **Jan Rene**, his parents **Crispin & Purificacion** (†), his brothers and sisters, **Boy & Nel, Che** (†) &**Aida**; nephews and nieces, **Tonypet, Kookie & Allan Kato** and **Avigail**, and the **Cortez family**.

His earthly remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapels along Sucat Road, Parañaque City and will be interred at the Manila Memorial Park on Sunday, February 6, 2005 after the 1 p.m. requiem mass at the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

His family and friends request all who knew **Rene** and shared in his enjoyment of life, to pray for his rest and everlasting peace.

Message of Thanks

The Partners, Associates, Officers and Staff of Banaria, Banaria and Company CPA's (BB & CO.), join the bereaved family of the late

DEAN PASCASIO SALCEDO BANARIA SR.

in conveying their heartfelt thanks to all those who gave comfort during their time of sorrow by offering Holy Masses, prayers, flowers, mass cards and donations as well as by sharing love and beautiful memories as Pascasio made his final journey to meet his Creator.

"You have shown me the paths of life, you will fill me with joy in your presence." – Acts 1:28

WAYNE McFARLAND JARO

of the Municipality of Naval and Bacolod City

First Governor of Biliran Province

Peacefully joined our Creator on January 30, 2005 at the age of 70.

His bereaved widow **Amelia**; children **Marili and Mark Shoop**, **Ricky and Gina**, **Jovi**, **Wayne Edward** (†), **Jake and Jing**, **Wayne Matthew**, **John and Maan**, **Stella and Nani Braganza**, **Nonette and Jerome Iñigo**, and **Chris and Lizza**; grandchildren **Michael and Gabriel**, **Nico and Thea**, **Arianne and Andy**, **Mia and Noah** (†), **Carlo**, **Lean**, **Iolo and Tricia**, and **Charlize**; brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends request pious readers to pray for his eternal repose and everlasting happiness.

His body lies in state at the Resurrection Chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret Church), corner of Mahinhin and Mayumi Streets, Diliman, UP Village, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, February 4. Interment will be in Naval, Biliran, date to be announced later.

"Do not
let your
hearts be
troubled.
Trust in God,
trust also
in Me.
In My
Father's
house are
many
rooms...
I am going
there to
prepare
a place for
you."
John 14:1-2

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all eligible palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs) to participate in the distribution of rice under the "INSTITUTIONALIZED FARMERS AS DISTRIBUTORS" (IFAD) Program of the National Food Authority.

All interested parties are advised to accomplish a Letter of Intent (LOI), copies of which are available at the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas, to be submitted within ten (10) working days after the last day of publication. They should likewise meet the following qualifications:

- Must be operational and registered with any of the appropriate registering agencies as listed below.
  - Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
  - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
  - Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)
  - Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)
  - National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
- Must be member of a local farmers' action council or the Philippine Farmers' Advisory Board (PFAB).
- Must be a holder of NFA license as retailer/wholesaler and other incidental lines of activities, i.e., warehousing and transporting, if any.
- Must be a holder of Certificate of Operations and Good Standing issued by the appropriate registering agency, to be submitted to the concerned NFA Provincial Office.

Specifically, the NFA has allocated a total volume of some 1,000,000 bags of rice, 25% BKN, for this Program distributed among regions as follows:

Region	Allocation
NCR	10,000
Ilocos Region	90,000
Cagayan Valley	130,000
Central Luzon	140,000
Southern Tagalog	90,000
Bicol	70,000
Western Visayas	150,000
Central Visayas	20,000
Eastern Visayas	60,000
Western Mindanao	40,000
Northern Mindanao	30,000
Southern Mindanao	30,000
Central Mindanao	70,000
ARMM	40,000
CARAGA	30,000

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For further inquiries, they may visit or contact NFA-DMO located at the 5th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue, Quezon City with telephone nos. 712-1572, 712-1708 or 712-1564.

(Sgd.) GREGORIO Y. TAN, JR.
Administrator

(PDI - February 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

Nickle Babbit / Lead

A Buyer is interested in **purchasing** large quantities of NB/Lead. Substantial bonus and possibility of long term commissions paid for assistance in purchasing the contents of various bunkers established prior to WWII. Sellers please contact **Tel. no. (083) 5524507 ; Cel ph 09204891117**

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

TERESITA Q. ARCAINA,
Petitioner,
-versus- SSC CASE NO. 4-15694-04
ALICIA MERCADO and
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Respondents.
x-------------------x

SUMMONS

TO : MS. ALICIA MERCADO

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by Teresita Q. Arcaina, for benefits accruing from the death of SSS member Teodorico J. Arcaina.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner at Block 9, Lot 27, Ipil-Ipil St. Cristina Homes Subdivision, Zabarte Road, North Caloocan City and upon the SSS through the Senior Vice President, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-prio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, January 27, 2005.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – February 3, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Cotabato Water District invites interested and legitimate Suppliers/ parties to submit bid proposal (2 sealed envelopes) for the following projects:

BID NO.	NAME OF PROJECT		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
01	1 lot	Supply, delivery and installation of electric motors and its assemblies for flocculator and rapid mixer drives, motor controls complete with standard accessories, rapid mixers and flocculators or as per technical specifications and drawings.	Php 963, 500.00
02	2 lots	Supply, delivery and installation of dosing pump, motor controls complete with standard accessories as per technical specifications and drawing.	Php 998, 000 00
	2 lots	Supply, delivery and installation of Polyethylene (PE) tank complete with stirrer, stirrer controls and other accessories as shown on plans and as specified.	

Interested parties may secure Bid Documents and Detailed Specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 500 00 during office hours at Metro Cotabato Water District, Governo Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City with Tel. Nos. (064) 4213508/ 421 1070

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	February 11 to 18, 2005
Opening / Submission of Bids	February 23, 2005

The criteria to be used by BAC in the eligibility check of prospective bidders shall be non discretionary "Pass / Fail" basis

The MCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the MCWD. The MCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made

(Sgd) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Feb 03 & 10 2005)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200 PASEO DE ROXAS CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-47-11 • 817-47-12 • 817-47-13
817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 817-144145
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA)** formerly known as the ***PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)*** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the lease of about 1.71 hectares for mixed use purposes and landscape development of about 6.86 hectares of its property known as the ***ESPLANADE***, located at the west end (Bay side) of the Central Business Park I – Island A (CBP I-A) Bay City, Pasay City.

Qualified participants are:

1.) Any Filipino citizen of legal age,
2.) Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private, of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is created and organized under the laws of the Philippines.

Interested parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 in cash or Manager's Check starting on January 17, 2005 until February 18, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Secretariat, PRA Real Estates Bids and Award Committee (PREBAC) 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City.

Further Information, inquiries may be made to the PREBAC in the above address with telephone numbers 817-4711 to 817-4713 (trunklines).

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--Jan. 7, 11, 19, 28, Feb. 3 & 7, 2005)

Dog Food

Warehouse Sale!!!!!!!

Up to 25% off!*

Thrifty adult dog food
Thrifty Puppy food

Hurry limited stocks only.
First come first serve.

Free delivery within Metro Manila for volume orders.

Cash purchases only.

If interested pls. call:

Filventure Industries Corporation
Tel. 9274181, 9281991

RUSH SALE

Office Condo Unit

Cityland
Condominium 10
Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Floor Area = 65.56 square meters

Please call or text

Ms. Jojo Punsal

0917-8332722

HOTER instant water heater
Promo Price: PhP4,499.00
Perfect
Call us now at 723-0032 to 37

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
LIFESTYLE
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

DUNKIN' DONUTS
LOVE BITES
Get 3 boxes for P100
P35 lang!

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

Food and fun activities make for double happiness

EVERY place in the world where there are Chinese people, but most specially in Hong Kong, the most important date in the lunar calendar is Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival.

The best places to experience the colors and scents of a new beginning are the Hong Kong Chinese New Year flower markets, which will open on Feb. 7 until midnight and Feb. 8 until the early hours of the next day at the Victoria Park in Causeway Bay and the Fa Hui Park in Mong Kok.

On Feb. 9, Chinese New Year's Day, Cathay Pacific International will hold its night parade, with over 40 local and international groups participating. Head off to Tamar Site in Admiralty or watch along the Wan Chai waterfront and witness .

The traditional new year fireworks display on Feb. 10 will be at the Victoria Harbour, set against the spectacular backdrop of city lights and harbor.

The CNY Horseracing takes place on Feb. 11 at the Sha Tin Racecourse in New Territories. What better time to go than on the first race meeting of the new year, which many racing fans believe to be fortuitous.

Hong Kong is a shopper's paradise and the shopping gets even better during the new year holiday as retailers offer irresistible bargains to welcome the Year of the Rooster.

> HK always springs a surprise but more so during the new year holidays

Symbolic food

Just like shops, restaurants accredited by the Quality Tourism Services scheme will be open throughout the holidays to offer convenient new year banquets.

FOOD/C2

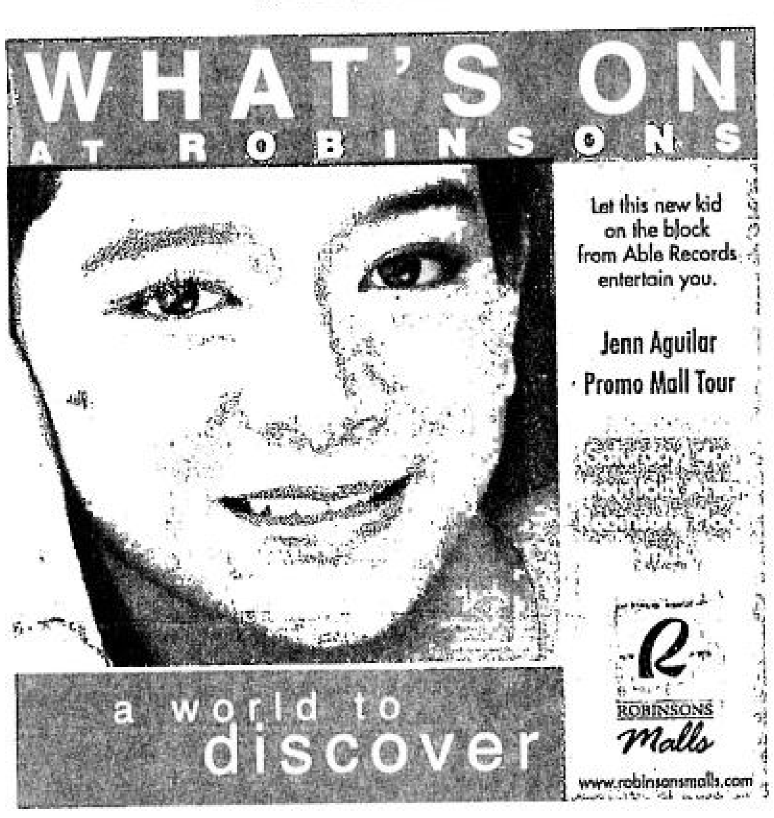
Win a trip to HK

FROM Feb. 7-11, Hong Kong welcomes the Year of the Rooster with colorful traditions and dazzling entertainment to assure a unique, fun-filled holiday for the family.

To give the new year a rousing start, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), in partnership with the PDI Lifestyle section, is giving readers the chance to win a trip for two to Hong Kong. To participate, readers must answer this question in not more than 5 sentences: "Why is Hong Kong the ideal place to celebrate the Chinese New Year?"

Entries, along with name, date of birth, address, phone number, may be e-mailed to hkchinesenewyear@perceptions-inc.com. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. of Feb. 12, 2005. Sorry, no hand-delivered or faxed entries, please.

Five entries will be picked to each win a special gift item from HKTB. The best entry wins the grand prize trip for two (2) to Hong Kong. Entries will be judged according to creativity (30 %), originality (30 %) and content (40 %).


WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Let this new kid on the block from Able Records entertain you.
Jenn Aguilar
Promo Mall Tour
a world to discover
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs. on her programme.
BIO DYNAMICS
2004 GREAT BODIES WINNERS
BIO DYNAMICS
BUILD OR LOSE! ARMS 10 - 20 cm
ABS 20 - 50 cm
FOREARMS 5 - 10 cm
THIGHS 20 - 50 cm
CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs. on his programme.
SLIMMERS WORLD
ONLY P40 PER DAY on Full Programmes.
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, NO INTEREST!
SAVE UP TO P300,000.
NO MONTHLY DUES!
PLUS! FREE! PERSONAL TRAINING for all enrollees today.
NON - SURGICAL FACE & BODY TREATMENT
Restore skin, face & body with our exclusive Face & Body treatments.
ONLY P300
per treatment to get you started.
SKIN HOTLINE 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312
CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph
FITNESS HOTLINE 8873533 CELLPHONE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
ALABANG Gemma 809 0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jynnah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bheng 365 7653
CEBU Ramil 231-3254
GREENHILLS Blanca 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 536 0619
MEGAMALL Sheila/Jenny 631 3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Fiona/Muffet 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth 252 6514
TRAFALGAR Ice 814 0198
SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112/32 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

CAKE DECORATING; SAUSAGE MAKING; COOKING & BAKING LESSONS
AT 181 SHAW BLVD., PASIG ☎ TEL. NOS 671-4498 · 671-4472 · 671-4489
DEMONSTRATION-STUDENT PARTICIPATION METHOD. ALL COURSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS & NON-BEGINNERS. HANDS-ON IN ALL COURSES. FEES INCLUSIVE OF INGREDIENTS

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, Chicago, U.S.A.
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

LEARN AND EARN! PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

FEB 3 THURS - 2:30 - 6:00PM - POLLO IBERICO (SOFT-TO-THE-BONE SPANISH GARLIC ROASTED CHICKEN W/ BABY POTATOES). MELTINGLY DELICIOUS SHRIMP SALAD, DE LUXE MEAT LOAF, BONELESS PARTY FISH SALAD, HOW TO BAKE THE LIGHTEST PEACH CHIFFON CAKE W/ WHIPPING CREAM. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 4 FRI - 2:30 - 6:00PM - THE BEST OVEN-BAKED PAELLA. ROAST-STUFFED MAGNOLIA JUMBO CHICKEN, PASTEL DE LENGUA, CALLOS MADRILEÑA, BLACK FOREST #2 IDEAL FOR CATERERS & PARTY-GIVERS **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 5 SAT - 2:30 - 6:00PM - 2 KINDS OF ROAST BEEF - MONTEREY STANDING RIB-ROAST & BACON-WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST W/ GRAVY, CREMA DE FRUTA, SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE, FRIED SQUID RINGS, CHICKEN ALEXANDER, SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER **P1,200. BY ERNEST.**

FEB 7 MON - 2:30 - 5:30PM - MONEY-MAKING BAKESHOP CAKES FOR BEGINNERS. COFFEE CRUNCH CHIFFON CAKE W/ WHIPPED CREAM ICING LENI'S #1 SELLING PRUNE WALNUT CAKE W/ MAGNOLIA GOLD RHUM BUTTER ICING *ZENAIDA NICHOLAS'* VERY LIGHT BLUEBERRY *"TRUMP'S FAVORITE"* CHEESECAKE HOMEMADE RHUM CAKE W/ FRESH ORANGE JUICE **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 8 TUE - 2:30 - 5:30PM - PASTAS & SALAD FESTIVAL! 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! BEEFY, CHEESY BAKED MACARONI, SPAGHETTI W/ PHILADELPHIA CREAM SAUCE, MEXICAN CORNMEAL CASSEROLE, SCALLOPPED POTATOES SMOTHERED W/ KRAFT MOZARELLA CHEESE, CHICKEN ASPARAGUS SALAD, CENTURY TUNA APLE SALAD, VEGETABLE BOWL W/ FRENCH DRESSING, MELTINGLY DELICIOUS EGG CASSEROLE. **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 9 WED - 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN. JOLLIBEE STYLE FRIED CHICKEN W/ GRAVY CHICKEN BURGER, DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD, SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS, FOUR SEASONS PUNCH RIPE MANGO, MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO GREEN MANGO JUICE **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 10 THU - 2:30 - 5:30PM - FISH & CHIPS W/ MAYO MUSTARD DILL SAUCE. SPICY BARBECUED MONTEREY BABY BACK RIBS W/ CHILI SAUCE, EASY CAESAR SLAD TOPPED W/ GRILLED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BREASTS, DELICIOUS CAMPBELL'S CHICKEN CASSEROLE W/ BABY POTATOES & CARROTS, ERNEST'S FRESH ASPARAGUS W/ CREAMY TOPPING PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE IN RAMEKINS TOPPED W/ RICOA CHOCOLATE BAR **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

FEB 11 FRI - 2:30 - 5:30PM - UBE CHIFFON CAKE; ROCKY ROAD, MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE, FOOD FOR THE GODS & WALNUT BROWNIES PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS & MUFFINS. DELICIOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS! ALL CAKES W/ DIFFERENT ICINGS **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 12 SAT - 1:00 - 5:00PM - WILTON CHOCOLATE CANDY-MAKING COURSE AT LIVING WELL HOMESTORE, 3RD FLOOR PODIUM MALL, ADB AVE. (ACROSS DISCOVERY SUITES), MANDALUYONG. DEMONSTRATION - HANDS ON METHOD USING WILTON ALL OCCASION CANDY MOLDS & CHOCOLATES. P500, INCLUDING INGREDIENTS, SNACK, TAKE HOME PRODUCTS & WILTON / LIVING WELL CERTIFICATE. BY CERTIFIED WILTON USA INSTRUCTRESS - LENI R. ARAULLO. PLS. CALL : 638-9590 TO RESERVE

FEB 12 SAT -2:30 - 6:00PM - PUT UP A STEAK HOUSE. LEARN THE TECHNIQUES IN COOKING THE JUICIEST MONTEREY PORTERHOUSE STEAKS BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAK ALA POBRE, DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY; CAESAR SALAD, ROAST ORANGE PORK LOIN; BEST-SELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI W/ 2 SAUCES, MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

FEB 14 MON - 2:30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE ROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PAN DE SAL, PANDE SAL W/ FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS, BREAD-BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

FEB 15 TUE & FEB 17 THU - 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAKE MONEY BY LEARNING 15 DELICIOUS RECIPES IN 2 LESSONS. P1,000 INCLUDES INGREDIENTS A SPECIAL FRUITCAKE; 3 VERSIONS OF BROWNIES (DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE, CHOCO CARAMEL FUDGE, WALNUT-TOPPED DARK & LIGHT BARS), 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF WELL-KNOWN MUFFINS 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES. FOR TEENAGERS & ABOVE **BY ERNEST**

FEB 16 WED - 2:30 - 6:30PM - 7 MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 1 - GERMAN BRATWURST; HUNGARIAN KIELBASA, MEXICAN LA GREEK, SHEBOYGAN BRATS, CHORIZO MACAO & BAGUIO SAUSAGES BONUS : ATCHARA & HOT POTATO SALAD **P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO, *WHO SOLD HAM & SAUSAGES TO HOTELS & RESTAURANTS SINCE 1963***

FEB 18 FRI - 2:30 - 5:30PM - SPICY BUFFALO WINGS W/ GARLIC DIP. LINGUINNE W/ CRAB FAT TOPPED W/ ROASTED BELL PEPPERS, MONTEREY ROAST BEEF SLICES W/ MOZARELLA CHEESE- TOMATO BASIL SERVED W/ FRENCH BAKER'S CIABATTA BREAD CAMPBELL'S DELICIOUS SHEPHERD'S PIE, CRABSTICKS & FRIES W/ TERIYAKI SAUCE, MONTEREY PORK TENDERLOIN STICKS W/ HOT CHILI SATE SAUCE **P1,200. BY ERNEST. DELICIOUS RECIPES MADE EASY!**

FEB 19, 26 & MAR 5
3 SATURDAYS
9:00AM - 5:00PM
FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE.
P3,500. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS, LUNCH & SNACKS.

LESSON 1 DAISY, TULIP, SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES, STAMENS & CALYXES FOR FUTURE USE

LESSON 2 CAKE (STYRO) COVERED W/ FONDANT ICING & "CUT-GLASS" TECHNIQUE. MAKE GUMAMELA, LILIES, STEPHANOTIS, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNATION DAFFODIL, WILTON ROSE, VICTORIA ROSE

LESSON 3 ORCHID, GUMPASTE RIBBONS & SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME) **BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

FEB 20 & 27, MAR 6 & 13 -
4 SUNDAYS - 9:00AM - 5:00PM
MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P4,500.
INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACK & INGREDIENTS, (EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO, OR BRING YOUR OWN).

LESSON 1 FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING TECHNIQUES IN COLORING BORDERS, SHELL ROPE STAR LEAF, ZIGZAG 'E' MOTION, FLEUR DE LIS MAKE GARLANDS & SWAGS, BASKET WEAVING, LATTICE DESIGN, 12 DIFFERENT DESIGNS FOR TOP & SIDES OF CAKE DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OR ROSE BOUQUET, SWEET PEA, CARNATION

LESSON 2 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK & FLORAL WIRE LEARN SUGAR MOLDING CAKES, FAN BOOTIES, BASKET CRIB, HEART, MARY'S HEAD, THE LION KING, DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE, 2 ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAY/BOX TO TAKE HOME CAKES

LESSON 3 MARZIPAN (FREE HAND) MOLDING & PAINTING OF FRUITS, FIGURES & VEGETABLES LEARN THE MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE & FRUIT PIPING DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS, WHICH HOTELS & LUXURY LINERS SERVE. LESSON 4 HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANTE / WEDDING CAKES: TIERED, STACKED, ETC EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN & DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME PLS BRING TRAY/BOX **BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

FEB 22 TUE - 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR. LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN); THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS, FETTUCINE ALFREDO, SPAGHETTI CARBONARA; BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON; PEACH-FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

FEB 23 WED - 2:30 - 6:30PM - DELICIOUS SAUSAGES II FOR BUSINESS! CHINESE SAUSAGE FOR SIOPAO FILLING (LOP CHONG), LONGANIZA ANISADO; CHICKEN MUSHROOM SWEET SAUSAGE JAPANESE STYLE PERUVIAN HOTDOGS, SMOKED BRATWURST #2; CHEROKEE INDIAN SAUSAGES SERVED IN CASINOS IN THE U S **P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

FEB 24 THU - 2:30 - 6:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI KUAPAO (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT FILLING & PICKLED MUSTASA), FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELLENADO, QUIKIAM W/ RADISH SALAD, STEAMED LAPU-LAPU **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

MAR 1 TUE - 2:30 - 5:30PM - EASY HONGKONG RESTAURANT COURSE: SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE STEAKS W/ MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN, SHRIMP & CRAB CLAWS & BALLS IN NEST W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE, HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER, MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST W/ CASUY, LAPU-LAPU FILLET IN CREAM OF CORN SAUCE LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER-GARLIC SPRITE **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

MAR 3 THU - 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT. LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPEIALTIES KIMCHI, SPINACH SALAD, MIXED RICE W/ KOREAN BEEF, BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBECUE, DEEP FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS, CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE, KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON, OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE), ROSE KUI, KOREAN BEEF STEW-TOPPED RICE PLUS KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES **P1,200. BY SYLVIA**

MAR 9 WED - 2:00 - 6:30PM - MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3. LEARN 7 OF YOUR FAVORITES FOOTLONG HOTDOGS, BEEF SAUSAGE JERKY USING "VIPPI" CASING USED FOR HOTDOG-MAKING, WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN 5-STAR HOTELS & RESTAURANTS, PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO, THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO, LONGANIZA LUCBAN **P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

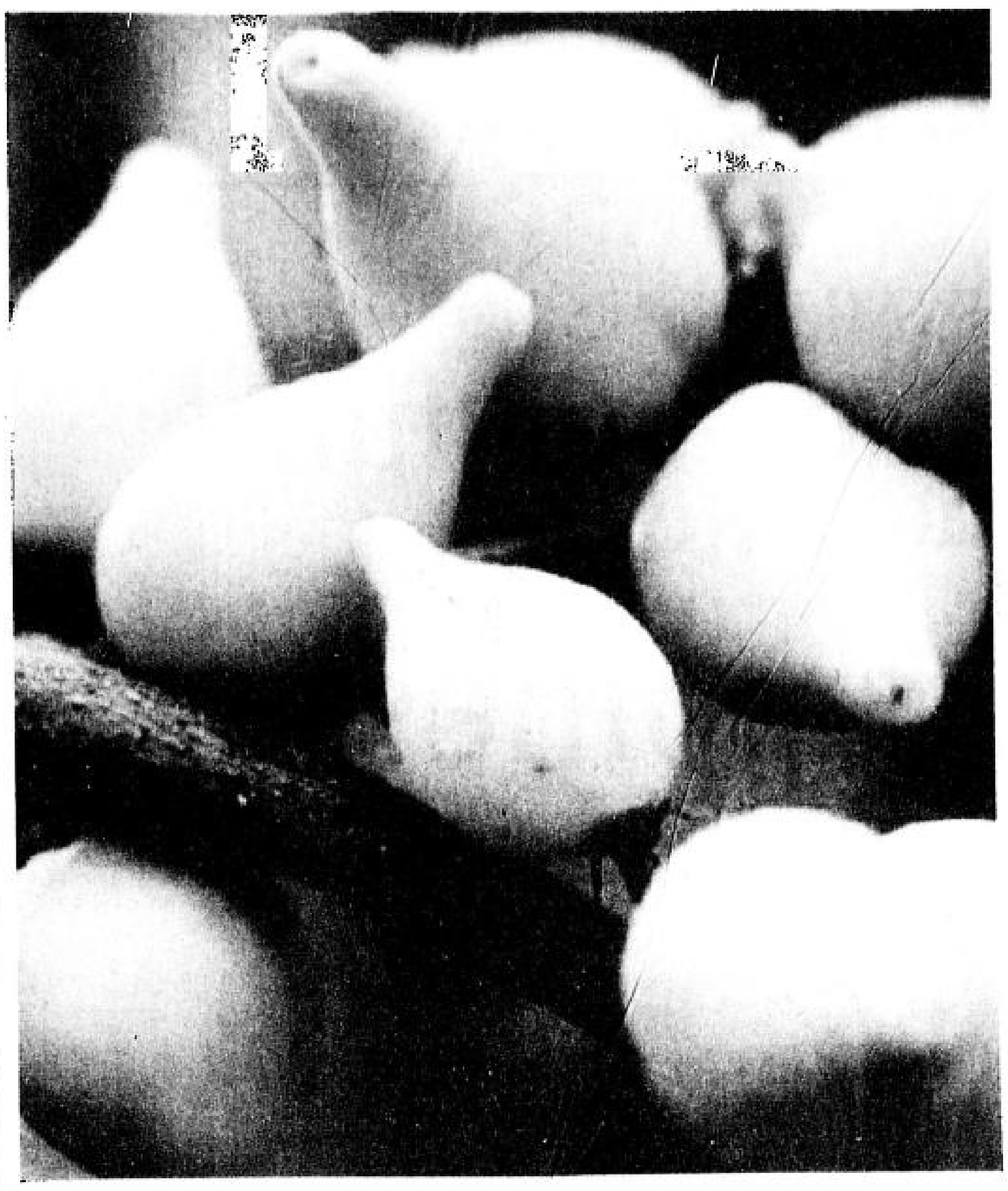
MAR 16 WED - 2:00 - 6:30PM - NEW MONEY-MAKING BACON AND SAUSAGE 4. AMERICAN BACON CANADIAN BACON, CHORIZO DE BILBAO, GERMAN WHITE FISH SAUSAGE, LONGANIZA ILONGGA INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD BONUS MORCILLAS (SPANISH BLOOD SAUSAGE) **P1,200. BY LENI R ARAULLO**

✔ VISIT OUR WEBSITE : HTTP://UK.GEOCITIES.COM/SYLVIAREYNOSOGALA
✔ LIMITED EDITION PANASONIC COOKBOOKS BY SYLVIA NOW AVAILABLE IN MAJOR HOME APPLIANCES NATIONWIDE

ATTENTION! BAGUIO RESIDENTS
Morella Reynoso Gala
VALEDICTORIAN I.H.M.E.S. INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM -1992
STUDIED COOKING AT LE CORDON BLEU LONDON
OFFERS COOKING; BAKING; CAKE DECORATING & SAUSAGE MAKING
AT KHALDI'S CAFE BISTRO at #10 CARIÑO ST., (ACROSS PALLADIN HOTEL, BAGUIO)
PLS. CALL : WELLS, FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 12 NOON ONLY MONDAY TO FRIDAY (074) 444-8844
PLEASE SEE BAGUIO MIDLAND COURIER SUNDAYS FOR BAGUIO SCHEDULE
RESTAURANT OPENS 6:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT (EXCEPT SUNDAYS)
FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY CLASSES

Argentina CORNED BEEF · MEAT LOAF · LIVER SPREAD · VIENNA SAUSAGE
RICOA
Century TUNA
Panasonic MICROWAVE OVENS & KITCHEN APPLIANCES
Gourdo's WILTON PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTOR
Magnolia Gold
Magnolia FRESH CHICKEN
Hunt's Paste · Hunt's Sauce · Hunt's Ketchup
MONTEREY

When Cantonese families visit each other to exchange New Year greetings it is customary to take gifts such as tangerines and oranges, as their Chinese names sound like 'gold' and 'wealth'



Food and fun activities make for double happiness

From page C1

Among the Chinese, the copious amounts of food offered during the festive season symbolizes abundance and wealth for the family during the coming year. Almost every dish on the table carries a symbolic meaning or name that sounds like the Chinese characters for fortune, happiness, longevity and prosperity.

On New Year's Eve, when everyone gathers around the table for dinner, delicious and auspicious dishes accentuate the anticipation for a prosperous new beginning.

Carp is a typical main course, because it symbolizes a profitable year ahead and maybe a windfall. Vegetables are eaten because they embody the freshness of "evergreen" and store good fortune in their roots. The round shape of meat and fish balls portrays "togetherness," whereas spring rolls resemble gold bars. Great care is taken to prepare an even number of dishes, as it is believed that an even number will bestow "double happiness" on the family.

To ensure completeness and to avoid misfortune, most New Year dishes are prepared with uncut or whole ingredients. When cooking, people generally avoid chopping up leafy greens and other items such as noodles. In fact, using knives, cleavers or sharp objects during the holiday season is considered unlucky as this could sever the entire family's good fortune.

Sweet specialties

During the week-long New Year celebrations, every household keeps their tables topped up with sweet and savoury specialties.

People in Northern China very often opt for dumplings with a variety of fillings because their shape is similar to that of gold ingots, believed to signify the hope of wealth. "Lin Goh," a Chinese New Year pudding is another favorite because the name sounds like "rising upwards each year."

Another prerequisite of Lunar New Year is the "tray of togetherness," which is filled with an assortment of treats, among them sweetened lotus roots (symbolizing abundance), sweetened lotus seeds (suggesting fertility) and dried melon seeds (symbolizing profuse earnings).

Most homemade delicacies such as dumplings are deep-fried to create a golden appearance, thus generating a feeling of wealth. Two traditional favorites representing prosperity and made with glutinous rice flour are Gin Dui, which is sprinkled with sesame seeds on the outside, and Yau Kok, which is stuffed with crushed peanuts, coconut shreds and sesame seeds.

Meat-free first day

Custom dictates that most families begin the first day of the new year with a vegetarian meal to counteract the effects of the excessive feasting on New Year's Eve. The meat-free meal is also considered fortuitous for garnering good karma by refraining from eating anything that has been killed.

The second day is the important "Day of Commencement" when businesses and household begin a new year of work with a commencement lunch. Cooks prepare a lavish line-up of dishes comprising chicken, shrimp, oysters and abalone. The lavish meal inspires good team spirit and raises hope for a profitable year.

The third day is a day to avoid social interaction, since it's known as the "Day of Squabbles." Staying home is considered the wise thing to do. Again, auspicious-sounding ingredients such as lettuce and seaweed top the list of ingredients used in preparing sumptuous meals for the family.

The dawn of the fourth day marks the return of the Kitchen God from a brief trip to Heaven where it had delivered an account on the families' behavior over the previous 12 months.

Big bowl

A family activity during the festive spring season might include visiting walled villages to sample their "big bowl feast" ("Poon Tsoi" in Cantonese), a hearty treat when the weather is chilly. A traditional big bowl feast is a wooden dish usually lined with Chinese lettuce and cooked turnip which has been chopped and cooked with stir-fried pork skin, strips of bean curd, bean curd balls or fish balls. Next comes a layer of dried squid, roast pork, dried oysters, braised lotus roots and chicken.

These days, many Hong Kong restaurants offer versions of the big bowl feast, saving diners a trip to the remote villages. The dish can now be created with a variety of tailor-made combinations to suit individual tastes.

Traditional Pinoy cooking classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Feb. 4—Traditional Pinoy Cuisine 101 (all new): *Batchoy, Guinataang* Chicken Pork *Adobo*, Bicol Express, *Dineng-deng, Binagoongang Baboy sa Gata, Igado, Pinaputok na Pampano*

Feb. 5—Easy Shrimps and Prawns: Prawns- Salt and Pepper, Delicious Coriander, Chili, Singapore Stylè; Shrimps-Shrimp Curry with *Guinataan* Rice, Delicious Oriental Noodle Salad, Authentic *Gambas al Ajillo*, Fresh Black and Green Pasta with Shrimp and Garlic, *Suahe* Chinese Style (Live Steamed Shrimp) with Dipping Sauce; side dishes and dessert

Feb. 7—Hawker food 2: Asian Street Food (all new), Delicious Fish Maw Soup, Ginger Chicken, Make Your Own Roast Duck with Home-made Plum Sauce and Chinese Roast Pork Served with Nonya Fried Rice and Fried Noodles

Feb. 9, WEDNESDAY—KOREAN 101: Kalbi-Chim (Korean Beef Rib Stew), Korean Barbecue (pork, beef, chicken, seafood), Kimchi Rice, Chap Chae (Stir- fried Noodles Korean Style), Mixed Vegetables

Call 9289296/ 9273008/ 6335162/ 0917-8399888.

Four days with the world's experts in digital and creative photography.

Sign up now for PhotoWorld Manila 2005 photo show & convention, February 3–8, 2005, Makati, Metro Manila

- **Eddie Tapp**, renowned author and consultant on digital imaging issues
  "Essential Skills of the Digital Workflow"—color management and techniques to simplify one's work from capture to delivery
- **Tony L. Corbell**, author of the college textbook on basic studio lighting
  "The Power of Light"—technical foundations for light quality and quantity from a creative perspective for film and digital
- **Matt Battison**, graphic designer and consultant/ instructor
  "Image Manipulation or Truth Manipulation?"—the impact of image manipulation on truth and on human perception of truth in photography
- **Hadi Doucette**, a Certified Professional Photographer of the PPA
  "Winning and Keeping Clients"—proven marketing and creative solutions for getting and keeping clients
- **Charlie Lim**, a multi-awarded photographer and lecturer
  "Trends in Advertising Photography"—the new challenges in advertising photography and creative solutions for staying competitive and profitable
- **Tilak Hettige**, fine-art photographer
  "Spirituality in Photography"—developing inner vision and using the ancient methods of Shamans to connect with inanimate objects

Organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation
Seminars ₱3,000 per day
For information or to register: (2) 813-7420, 843-6341
www.photoworldmanila.com
FPPF

PRINT MEDIA PARTNER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ONLINE MEDIA PARTNER
yehey!
your internet lifestyle

Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry PTAA Philippine Travel Agencies Association

"INVESTOURISM"

Friday, 04 February 2005, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Mega Trade Conference Center, 5F Mega B, SM Mega Mall
EDSA corner Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

This event is part of
PCCI's
"FIVE 5'S TOURISM PLAN"

To bring in
5 MILLION FOREIGN TOURISTS, to generate
5 BILLION USD IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE, & create
5 MILLION JOBS through
5 BILLION USD INVESTMENTS IN TOURISM, by the 5TH YEAR.

POWERHOUSE PRESENTATIONS BY TOURISM INVESTMENT EXPERTS!

TUNKU ISKANDAR
Secretary-General
ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA)
President

ATTY. LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General
Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA)

ROLANDO CAÑIZAL
Director
Office of Tourism Development Planning
Department of Tourism (DOT)

ATTY. GUILLER ASIDO
Corporate Secretary
Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA)

DONALD DEE
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

MARCIANO C. RAGAZA
President
Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA)

SAMIE LIM
Vice President - Tourism, Retailing, and Franchising
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

INCLUSIVE TALKS ON TOURISM INVESTMENT!

- **Philippine Medium Term Development Plan for Tourism**
- **Philippine Tourism Authority's Investment and Privatization Program**
- **Updates on Philippine Tourism Ecozones (TEZs)**
- **ASEAN Low Cost Budget Hotels and Airlines Program**

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MATCHING!

Meet with networks of prospective business partners in various tourism investment projects.

******Transportation* - air, sea, land
******Infrastructure* - roads, ports, energy, water, communications
******Accommodations* - real estates, hotels, restaurants
******Attractions* - beaches and eco-tours
******Activities* - shopping & recreation (spa, casino), festivals & religious pilgrimages, education (English & arts)

PARTNERS

Philippine Retailers Association * Philippine Franchise Association
Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines * ASEAN Tourism Association
ASEAN Business Advisory Council * Philippine Export Zone Authority
Department of Tourism * Philippine Tourism Authority
Philippine Daily Inquirer * Protege PR and Events
Philippine Tour Operators Association * Vision & Image Publicity Network
Philippine Exporters Confederation * Employers Confederation of the Philippines
Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Foundation * Philippines, Inc.
Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry
Hotel & Restaurant Association of the Philippines
Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Association

FOR MORE INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT THE EVENT SECRETARIAT :

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
19F Salcedo Towers, 169 H. V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos: (632) 844-5713 & (632) [illegible]
Fax No. (632) [illegible]
Email: [illegible]
Contact Person: Rocky Sapan

LUCKY MENU. Jade Garden Cantonese Restaurant's chefs from Hong Kong have prepared a "good luck" menu to ensure an auspicious year ahead. Set menu 1 at P14,800+/12 persons consists of barbecued suckling pig with assorted meat, shark's fin coup with crab meat, steamed lapu-lapu, sautéed fresh scallops with conpoy and broccoli, fried pigeons marinated in wine, steamed crabs with minced garlic, braised dried oysters with sea moss and bamboo pith, and lobster superior sauce with noodles. Desserts are hot sweetened almond purée with dumplings and fresh fruit platter. Set menu 2 is available at P7,800+/12 persons. Jade Garden also has HK-style *tikoy* for gifts. Jade Garden is at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City, tel. 8922319/8922636.

Celebrate Chinese New Year with family and friends

DINING OUT

ONE OF The Podium's specialty restaurants, Lolo Mao Restaurant offers Yu Sheng Salad until Feb. 13. Yu Sheng consists of freshly shredded white reddish, carrots, pomelos, wintermelons, fresh and picked ginger, papaya, chopped roaster peanuts, sesame seeds, and crispy crackers. China Star and Banana Leaf Curry House also welcome the Year of the Rooster with promos on their chicken dishes.

TAGAYTAY Highlands' China Palace presents Rooster King's Buffet at the Palace on Feb. 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Classic Chinese favorites symbolizing long life, wealth and abundance will be featured. Children will be treated to a *pabitin* of ang pao buntings. Those who can gather the most number of buntings will receive special prizes. Call (046)4132033.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace offers a special a la carte menu consisting of *tikoy*, dim sum, Braised Dried Oysters and Scallops, Chinese Winter Meat Rice in Hot Pot, Roasted Nam Yee Chicken, Stir-Fried Pacific Clams and Sliced Chicken with Asparagus. Call 8400834/8138888.

SHANGHAI Bistro has a special offer until Feb. 15 in celebration of its first anniversary and the Chinese New Year. For a minimum of 6 persons, customers can choose from 2 sets of 10-dish menus that feature suckling pig. A free bottle of Carlo Rossi wine is available for a group of 10. Patrons can also order from an a la carte menu of Braised Shark's Fin with Seafood and Bamboo Pith, Stir-fried Fresh Scallop with Shrimp and Cashew Nut, Pan-fried Fresh Prawn with Tomato Sauce and Wun Kung Vegetarian Clay Pot. Shanghai Bistro is located at Eastwood City Walk 2. Call 6877103/6871861.

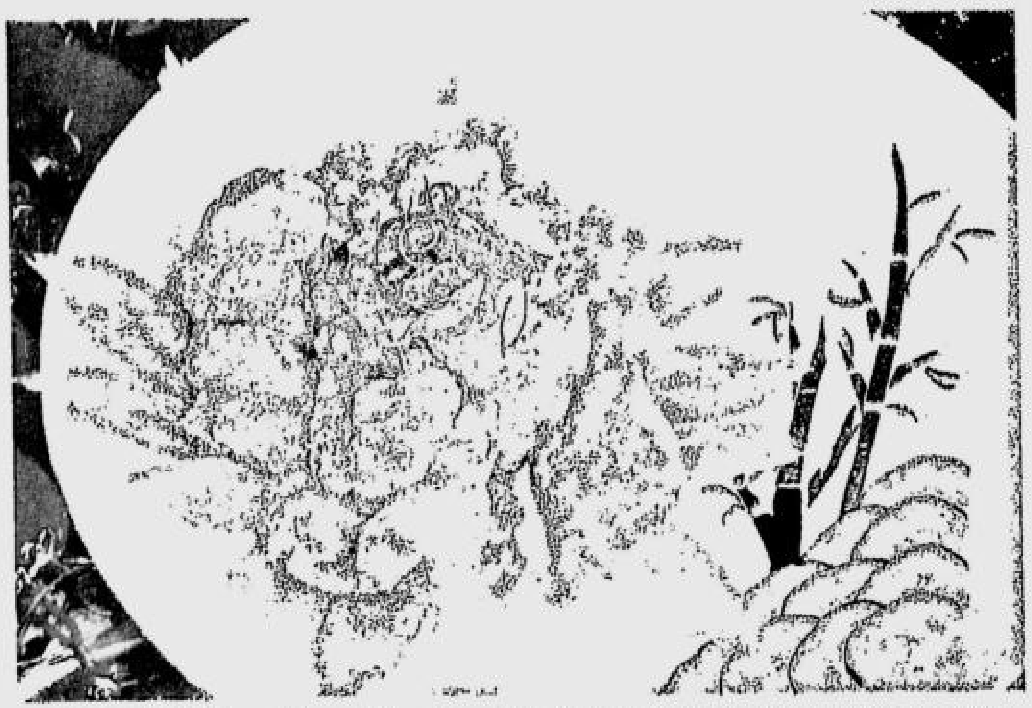
HOLIDAY INN Galleria Manila's Raphael Cafe-Restaurant presents A Taste of China until Feb. 11. Featured are Braised Beancurd with Seafood in Hot Chili Garlic Sauce, Roasted Peking Duck, Braised E-fu Noodles with Chicken Strips, Deep-fried Sliced Garoupa with Pine Seeds in Sweet and Sour Sauce, Szechuan Vegetable Salad and Roasted Chicken with Taro Curd Sauce. Call 6337111.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila's special Lunar New Year buffet features traditional Chinese specialties like Shark's Fin Soup with Crabmeat, Braised Dried Oyster with Chinese Mushroom and Black Moss, Steamed Fish Fillet Hong Kong Style, Wok-fried E-fu Noodles, Chicken in a Paper Bag and Roast Duck and Singapore-style Suckling Pig. Call 8548888.

LUK YUEN Noodle House offers special *tikoy* in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Tikoy is available at P118 per reusable microwaveable plastic box. Diners may also order tikoy at P45 for three pieces. Luk Yuen has outlets at Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan; SM Megamall Basement Bldg. 6; Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati; Cash & Carry, Makati; Paseo de Magallanes, Makati; and Alabang Town Center.

MCDONALD'S welcomes 2005 by offering the Prosperity Beef Burger, glazed with black pepper sauce and garnished with fresh onion bits. Customers can also purchase Lucky Chums premium items at P58 with any food order. They come in 12 designs representing the Chinese calendar zodiac animals.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Pavilion Court presents Green Rooster Brings Luck men consisting of Salmon Sashimi, Shredded Duck with Golden Mushroom in thick soup, Fresh Oysters with Nori in Spring Roll Wrapper, Sauteed Prawn Balls with Sweet and Sour Sauce in Taro Ring, Braised Spareribs of Pork with preserved Vegetables, Assorted Garden Vegetables with King Mushrooms on Feb. 7-12 during lunch and dinner. Asian-Chinese specialties will be featured on Feb. 9 at Café Coquilla. Call 5261212.



PEKING GARDEN, an affiliate of Hong Kong's Maxim's Group of Restaurants, welcomes the Year of the Rooster with a special Chinese New Year set menu at P9,900+ for 12 persons, including four kinds of appetizer, shark's fin with assorted seafood in papaya soup, Peking duck, golden prawns with salted eggs, braised dried oysters with sea moss and lettuce, deep-fried lapu-lapu with Sichuan vinegar sauce, lotus-wrapped preserved Chinese sausage rice topped with garlic crabs, steamed supreme soup and pork dumplings (siao long pao), and chilled mango shake with saga for dessert. Also available is Hong Kong-style *tikoy* for gift-giving. Call 8179066/8179067. Peking Garden is at the 2/L of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Eat your way to a lucky Year of the Rooster

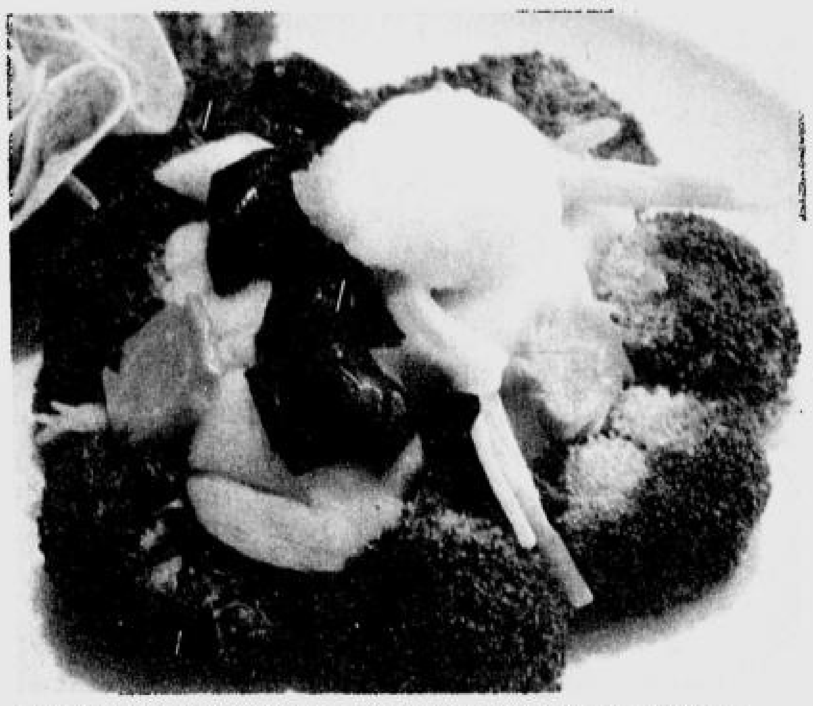
INVITE good fortune this Year of the Rooster by feasting on some Chinese New Year dishes symbolic of good wealth and fortune.

The easy way is to try Mandarin Oriental's New Year's Eve buffet dinner. Fried Spring Rolls (Cantonese style) with their crisp golden-yellow color representing gold; Lo Hon vegetables with Fat Choi is also symbolic of money (sea moss' Chinese name roughly means money will come easily so business will be good); and Chinese cookies with their golden-yellow color are likened to gold coins.

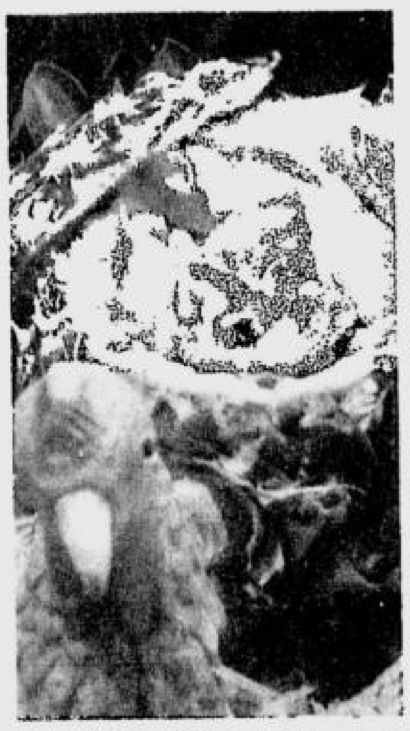
Dishes symbolic of family unity and good health include Wintermelon Soup with Dried Scallops. The mixture of different ingredients in the soup is symbolic of unity or togetherness. Pan-fried *tikoy* made of sticky glutinous rice symbolizes the phrase "sticking together."

Symbolic of strength are Suckling Pig combination and Tin Hau Fried Chicken, their red roasted skin likened to a strong farmer working all day in the farm. Other dishes symbolic of wealth, fortune and luck in business are Steamed Dried Oyster with Sea Moss in Oyster Sauce and Marinated Pork Knuckles with Sea Moss.

Mandarin Oriental (7508888) shares some of its lucky recipes.



STIR-FRIED Scallops with Black Fungus and Dried Banana Blossoms



STIR-FRIED Chicken with Pineapple and Ginger in Honey Pepper Sauce

Stir-fried Scallops with Black Fungus and Dried Banana Blossoms

10 g dried banana blossoms
250 g. scallop US
10 g black fungus
200 g broccoli flower
10 g leeks
2 g salt
100 g corn oil
3 g chicken powder
1 g sugar
5 g cornstarch
3 ml rice wine

Soak banana blossoms and black fungus in hot water for 30 minutes, then wash.

Cut the broccoli flower into 10 pieces and blanch with boiling water, then remove.

Put the broccoli all over the sides of the plate, then set aside.

Blanch the scallops with boiling water and drain.

Sauté the leeks, black fungus, banana blossoms and scallops in corn oil for at least one minute. Then add salt, sugar, chicken powder, rice wine, cornstarch and stir again. Put them in the middle of the broccoli then serve.

Stir-fried Chicken with Pineapple and Ginger in Honey Pepper Sauce

1 whole pineapple
300 g chicken breast
10 g green bell pepper
10 g red bell pepper
10 g young ginger
10 g sugar
100 ml corn oil
2 g salt
3 g chicken powder
20 ml catsup
10 g vinegar

First cut at least 1 ½ inch of the pineapple horizontally without removing the skin. Remove the meat and cut the pineapple into cubes and set aside.

Slice the chicken breast into cubes and marinate in salt, chicken powder and cornstarch for at least five minutes.

Stir-fry the ginger, marinated chicken, pineapple, red and green bell peppers in corn oil for at least 30 seconds. Then add catsup, sugar, vinegar, chicken powder and salt.

Put the mixture inside the pineapple then serve.

PATIO PACIFIC
Boracay

Pink Patio Resort
turns over a new leaf at fifteen.
Experience Patio Pacific's
tropical island paradise
in Boracay.

12/F Multinational Bancorp Centre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone: 845 2222 to 27
Email: sales@patiopacificboracay.com • Website: www.patiopacificboracay.com

A healthier 'chicharon'

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

WE ALWAYS tend to indulge in things that aren't good for us. Last night, I discovered Fisharon. Delicious, crisp, salt-laden *chicharong tilapia* skin, a lesser evil compared to the regular pork crackling we've become accustomed to. Something I think you'll enjoy as much as I did.

Who ever said only Peking duck can be eaten two or three ways? I ate one pack for snack and the other crumbled over *sinangag* with tomatoes, *itlog na maalat* and *adobo*. I reckon it will be just as good with *tapa* or *tocino*. See Fisharon served four ways. (Panjie Tayag, 0917-8329360)

Searching

I have been looking for an oven and a stove-top grill for steaks. What do you use and what brand do you recommend?

ARMIE

I've been cooking for too long and used many brands. I'm happy with Wolf but, in the last three years I've been a SMEG fanatic. I use a "cooker hob" in my culinary school and a free-standing cooker/oven at home.

Recently, I added an oven in Shang. It has nine functions and a rotisserie for my *lechon de leche* and my roasted lamb. I absolutely love it! There are many reasons why people prefer one brand over another—heat, gas or electric, design, function and price.

All points considered I am happiest with SMEG. Best part about this brand is the after-sale care and customer service they provide me, which are vital as I subject these gadgets to harsh conditions. If I were you, I'd get a SMEG.

As far as stove-top grills are concerned, I use Le Creuset (Bacchus), La Ideal (Terry's) & SMEG. All of them are good. The first two are reversible. One side is ribbed for steaks and the other flat. But I find that, for steaks, it is still SMEG. It is the thickest of all my stove-top grills, allowing for more even heat/higher temperatures. So when I cook my steaks, I have perfect medium rare chunks of meat in less than five minutes.

A useful tip, after washing your grills and even your sizzling plates, give the surface a coat of vegetable oil before storing to prevent rust. (Jefferson, 0917-8588020)

For dad

My father will be celebrating his 79th birthday and he loves *Suahe* like the ones in Chinese restaurants. Please teach me. I would like to surprise him.

MAR GONZAGA

What I would have done if I had the chance to see my dad turn 79! I'd even catch the shrimps myself!

Mar, I truly hope your father enjoys this. A very Happy Birthday to him and may you be blessed with many more years with him. How good God is to you. You're very lucky!

Suahe Chinese-style (Live Steamed Shrimp) with Dipping Sauce

1 k *suahe*, use only live jumping shrimps for this recipe (Arranque/Farmers)
3 slices of ginger
1 whole green onion, roots removed
water

- Heat water in a steamer. Make sure water fills 3/4 of the pan.
- Add ginger and green onions.
- When water boils, wait 5-7 minutes before putting the shrimps in the steamer.
- Steam until shrimps change color and are heated all the way through, about six minutes.

Sauce:
1 tbsp hot peanut oil
1 tbsp sesame oil
red chili, seeded and thinly sliced
4 tbsp light soy sauce
1 slice ginger, julienned (optional)
2 tsp garlic (optional)
1 tbsp sugar
½ cup shrimp water (water from steamed shrimps)
¼ cup green onions, sliced
1 tbsp chopped coriander
salt & pepper

- Heat peanut oil in a pan.
- Take pan off heat, add chilies and the rest of the ingredients.
- Check for seasoning and add chilies, sugar and pepper to taste.
- Transfer to a bowl and serve with *suahe*.

Cooking dad

How do you make beef bowl? My kids are crazy about it. I hope you can help me.

LANCE TEO

Nothing could be cuter than a father cooking for his kids. I'm sure they will love this. I eat mine with Japanese pickled ginger. The secret to the success of this dish is the quality of the meat. Use the best steak cut you can afford. Happy cooking!

By the way, all the ingredients are available in Sakura (Pasay Road, Makati) or any other Japanese store. Rustan's has a pretty comprehensive Japanese section as well.

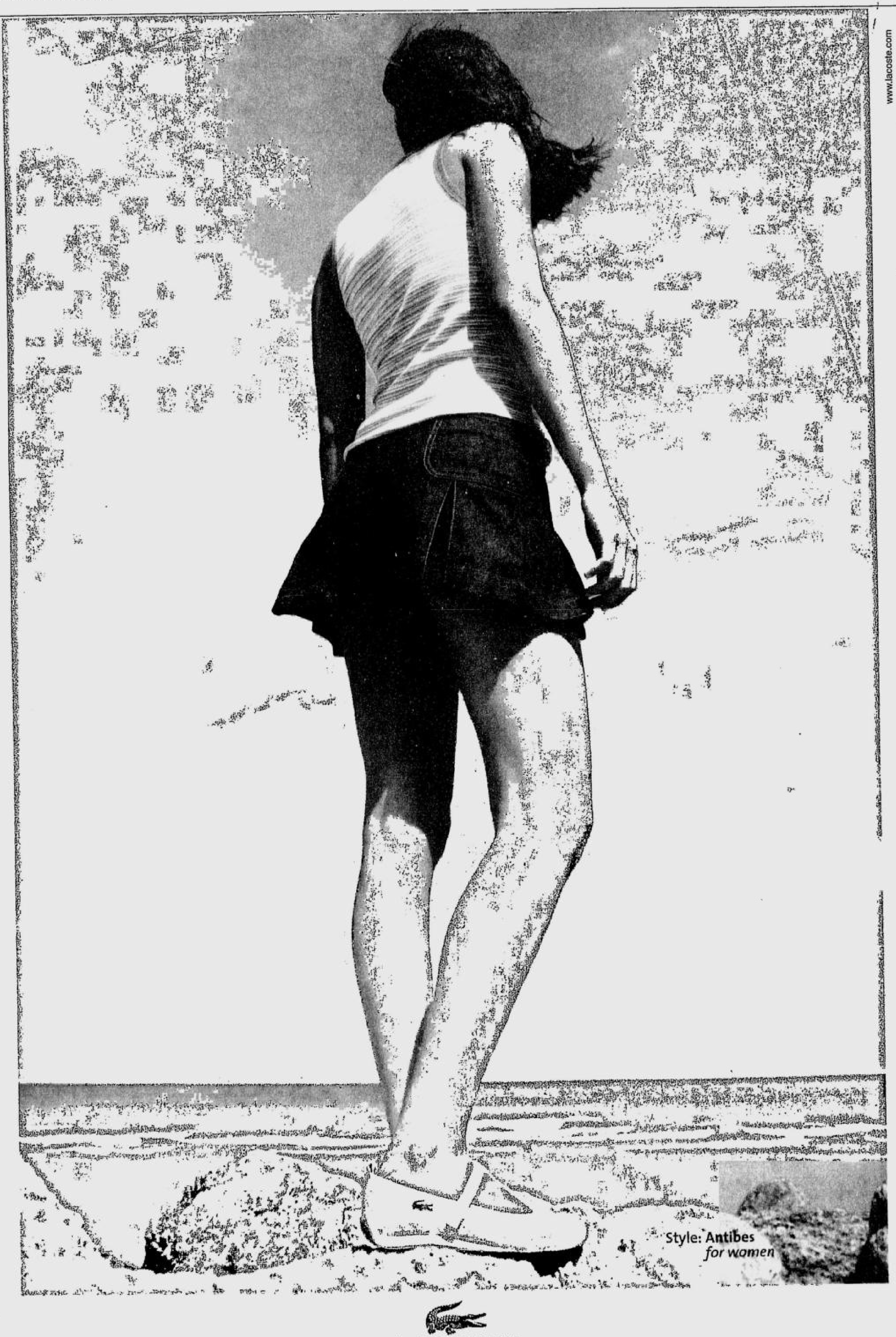
1/4 k Angus beef (I use rib-eye) thinly sliced/sukiyaki cut
1 onion, thinly sliced
1 tbsp hon dashi mixed in 1 cup water
4 tbsp soy sauce, Kikkoman
3 tbsp mirin
2 tbsp sugar
1 tbsp sake

- Combine dashi, soy, mirin, sugar and sake in a saucepan.
- Add onion and beef. Cook until meat changes color.
- When done, put meat over cooked Japanese rice, pour sauce over and serve with pickled ginger.

Spanish terms, Part 2

Bacalao—salted cod
Besugo—red bream
Bocadillo—sandwich
Bonito—small tuna
Brasa—cooking over coal
Butifara—Catalan "soft" sausage
Calabacin—zucchini
Caldo—broth
Caldereta—stew
Camaron—prawn
Cangrejo—crayfish
Cazuela—earthenware cooking vessel
Champiñon—mushroom
Chilindron, al—cooked with red bell peppers
Chistorra—sausage from Navarra
Chorizo—general term for a spicy sausage
Churros—breakfast fritters
Cochinillo—suckling pig, a Castilian specialty
Cocido—classic country casserole/stew
Crema Catalana—a type of creme caramel

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.



LACOSTE
FOOTWEAR
• SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, TEL. NO. 635-0744 • GLORIETTA 3, TEL. NO. 867-4077 • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, TEL. NO. 522-7778
• THE POWER PLANT MALL, TEL. NO. 898-0933 • THE PODIUM, TEL. NO. 633-8226 • THE GATEWAY MALL, TEL. NO. 912-5726 • SM CITY DAVAO, TEL. NO. (082) 297-2510

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

1

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

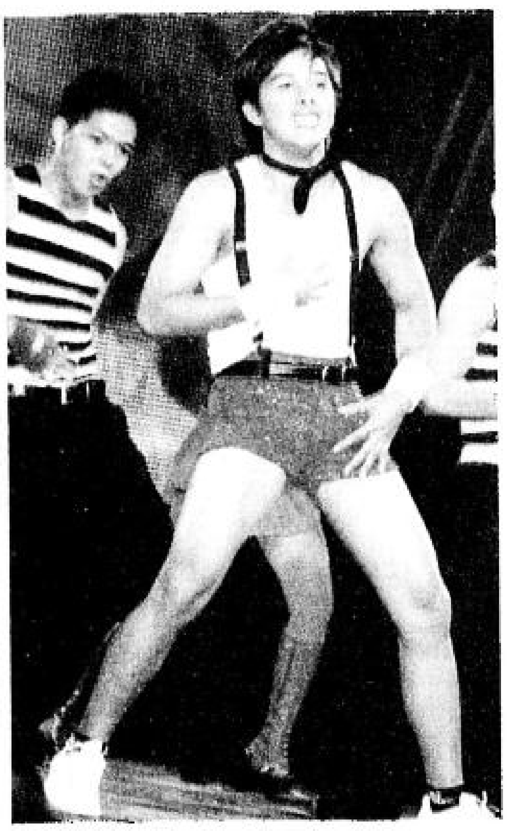
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

HOSTS Luis Manzano and Jody Sta. Maria

JURORS Lauren Dyogi, Gloria Diaz and Boy Abunda

Red, white, and blue—green's better than you!

SCQ2 Grand Questor named in heart-thumping proceedings that resembled intramural sports



DM Sevilla's Masculados suite

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FINAL confrontation was more like a battle of colors than anything else, and green emerged triumphant.

Erich Gancayco of Davao, carrying the color green, was named Grand Questor at the conclusion of ABS-CBN's talent search, "Star Circle Quest Season 2" on Jan. 29 at the Philippine Sports Commission Multipurpose Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

The other four who vied for the title were DM Sevilla of Bulacan, Charles Christianson of Davao, Paw Diaz of Laguna and Arron Villaflor of Tarlac.

The stadium was transformed into a sea of white, blue, green, yellow and red for the proceedings that resembled an intramural sports bout. More than 5,000 fans turned up, outfitted in their idols' respective colors. Every once in a while they chanted, or bellowed catchy tunes while tapping on the railings. Many waved balloons in the air to cheer on their bets; others hung streamers across their seats.

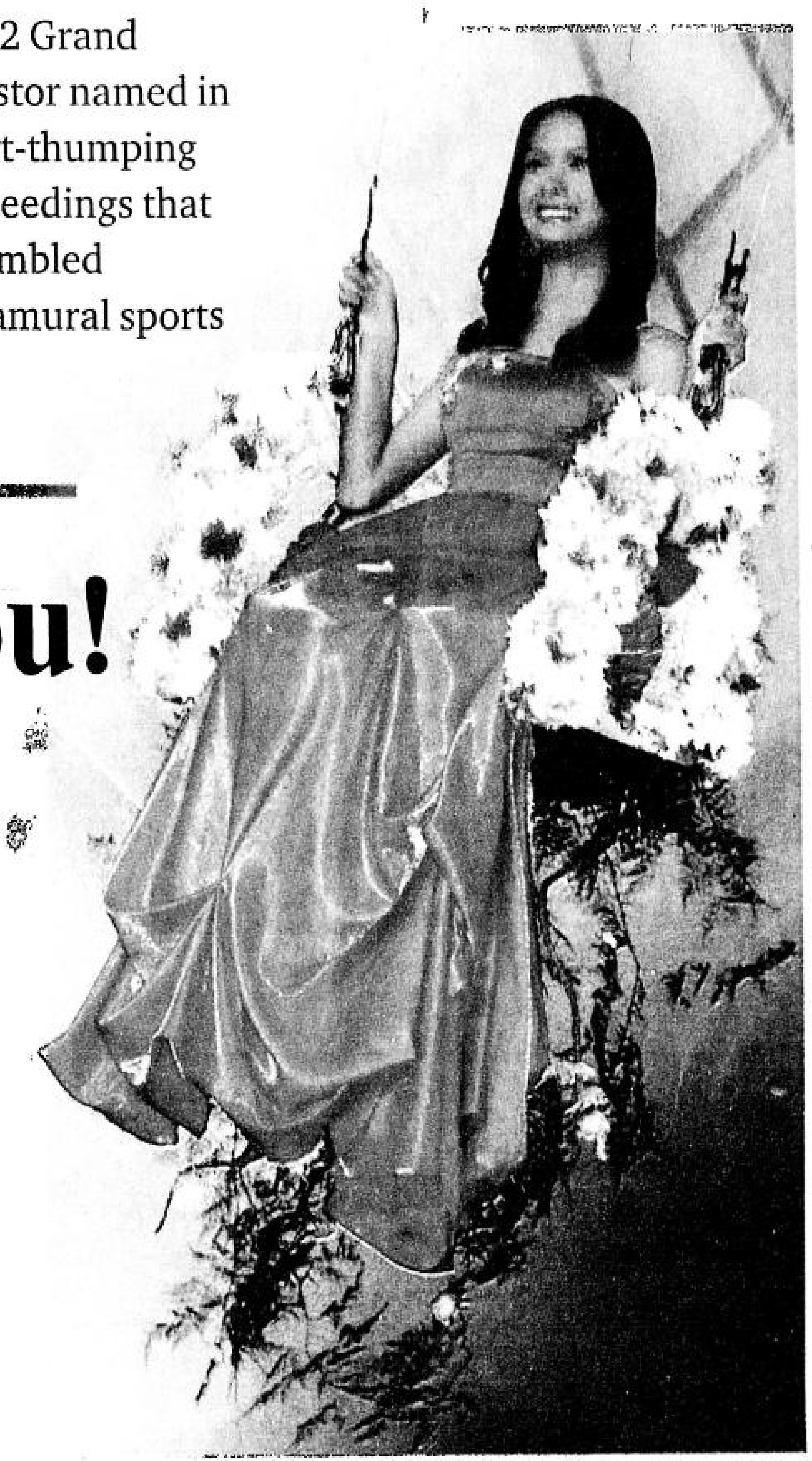
There was no mistaking who was rooting for whom. DM's fans wore red, Charles' blue, Paw's white. Arron and Erich were in a tight race, having taken turns at being named strongest Questor in the last few weeks of the search. Arron's supporters wore yellow.

Prior to the announcement of the final verdict, Beth Gonzales, a fan of Arron's, was certain that he would win "because he is good in his exercises." Her friend Jenepher de Guzman rooted for Erich. "She has the strongest potential," Jenepher explained. "[And] she is really willing to be an actress."

Jurors speak

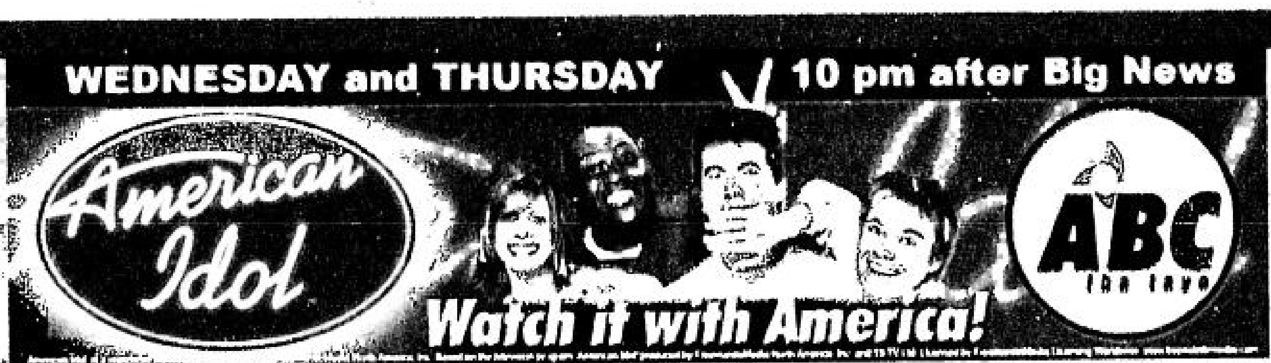
"We've seen you cry buckets and buckets of tears, and we've

RED/2



GRAND Questor Erich Gancayco. "You are beautiful," the jurors said.

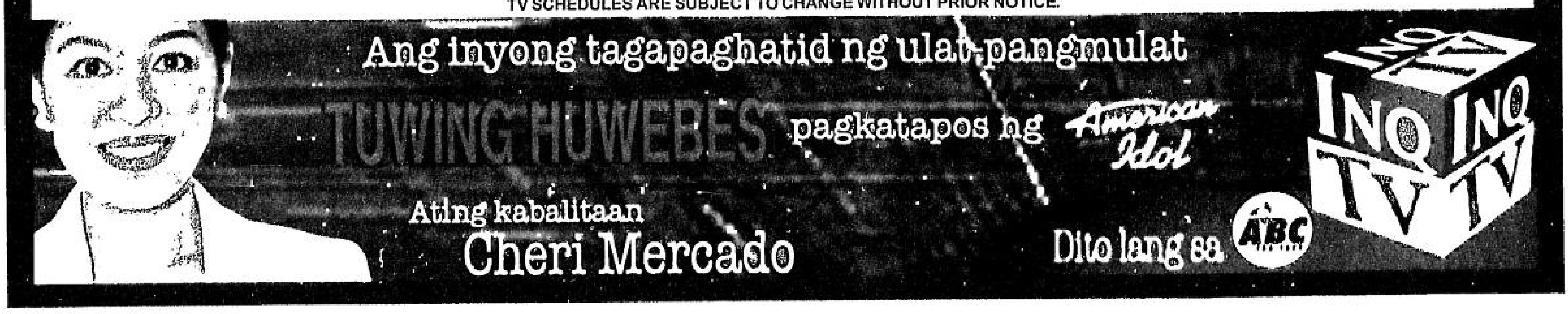
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
thursday, February 3, 2005



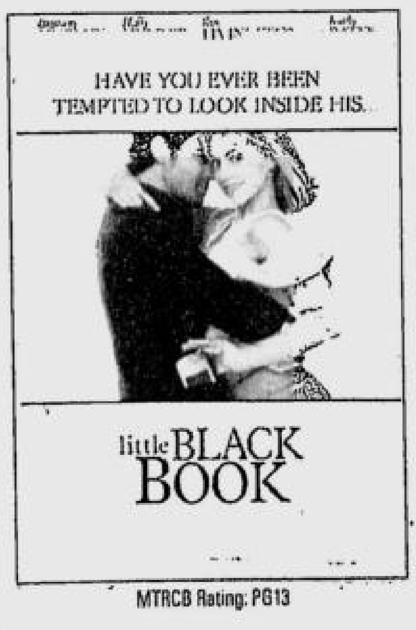
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Natl Teen Quest	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider	Dong Puno
NBN		Taiwan/ Winner TV Shopping		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Sinulog Festival					
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA					Sentro	PBA					Big News	Inq TV		Fearless Fighting	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Wrestling		NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Retro TV		V League				Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	SWI Great Bodies 04	
Solar		WWE Smackdown				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Maxsteel	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Thunder Box		JAG		Black Mask 2			
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Good Morning Miami	What I Like About You	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Ed		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Eliminidate	Change of Heart
Cinema One		Kuya				Bago Matapos Ang Lahat				Ikaw Ang Miss Universe Ng Buhay Ko				Busang Itim				Ex-Con	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	UAAP				X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Spin City
AXN		Desperado				The Amazing Race		Samurai X	Samurai X	Beastmaster		Now See This	Now See This	David Blaine Street Magic		Cruel And Unusual			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Sting: Inside The Songs Of Sacred Love		The Chronicle News From The Edge		My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance		Friends	Sting: Inside The Songs Of Sacred Love
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News		World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Innovation		Frontiers Of Construction		Riddles Of The Dead		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Natl Geographic Specials		Innovation		Frontiers Of Construction	
Solar Sports		Copenhagen Masters MS Final			Sounds of the Finals				The Next Gen. Hardcourt '05 Finals				NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Phoenix @ Minnesota					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Clean House		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO			Hey Arnold! The Movie (3:20 PM)		Mighty Wind (4:35 PM)			Surviving Love (6:05 PM)			Slap Shot 2: Breaking The Ice			Hulk				Gattaca (11:15PM)	
Star Movies			Stark Raving Mad (3:45 PM)				Road To Perdition				MXP: Most Extreme Primate			Phenomenon				Reversal Of Fortune	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN			Motorsport Asia	Big 12 Conf. Basketball Texas vs. Kansas				NFL's Greatest Game			Super Bowl XXXVII Highlights Patriots vs. Panthers	Sportscenter Taiwan	Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04		Atlantic Coast Conf. Duke vs. Wake Forest				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		A Man For All Seasons				Out Of Time			Cop & 1/2			Inaka Blunt Instrument			True Colors (9:40 PM)				Fourplay
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Kidnapped: The Elizabeth Smart Story				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Agency II		Strong Medicine		Happy Hour			Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (10:35PM)		Agency II (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		Ultimate Cars	Building The Ultimate	Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Power Zone	
MTV Philippines		MTV Asia Hitlist		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline		MTV U-Break	MTV Jams		TRL		Globally Dismissed	Pimp My Ride	VH1 Hits! Video Collection	
Sports Plus	Watson's Champions Challenge Day3							Superbowl1 Green Bay vs Kansas		Pac 10 Arizona @ Oregon Natl					You've Got to See This	WTA Australia Adidas Int'l Finals			
EWTN	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Suffering Church	Angel Force	Children's Rosary	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	The Spirit Of Catholic Leadership	Saints: A Closer Look	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Council Of Faith	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

moviepickoftheWeek
Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon
A new comedy about following your own lead
Shall we Dance?
MTRCB Rating: G (All ages admitted)



SM CINEMA movietime

OPENS THIS WEEK

WITHOUT A PADDLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
Subject to MTRCB RATING

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
MTRCB RATING: R13

RACING STRIPES
Subject to MTRCB RATING

SHALL WE DANCE?
MTRCB RATING: GP13

NOW SHOWING

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 SHALL WE DANCE

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
5 RACING STRIPES
6 WITHOUT A PADDLE
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 ELEKTRA
11 BLADE TRINITY
12 WHITE NOISE

sm city fairview
1 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 ELEKTRA
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 RACING STRIPES
9 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
10 MAD HOUSE
11 OCEAN'S TWELVE
12 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

sm city manila
1 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 RACING STRIPES
6 ELEKTRA
7 WITHOUT A PADDLE
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 WHITE NOISE
11 LITTLE BLACK BOOK smcinemaexclusive
12 MAD HOUSE

sm city sta. mesa
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 ELEKTRA
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
6 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
7 RACING STRIPES
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 KUNG FU HUSTLE
10 WHITE NOISE

sm city southmall
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 RACING STRIPES
3 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
4 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 ELEKTRA
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city north edsa
1 ELEKTRA
2 RACING STRIPES
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ELEKTRA
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city bicutan
1 ASSAULT IN PRECINCT 13
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 ELEKTRA

Movies are subject to change without prior notice - For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL! DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF! VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

cinemaexclusive

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TEMPTED TO LOOK INSIDE HIS.

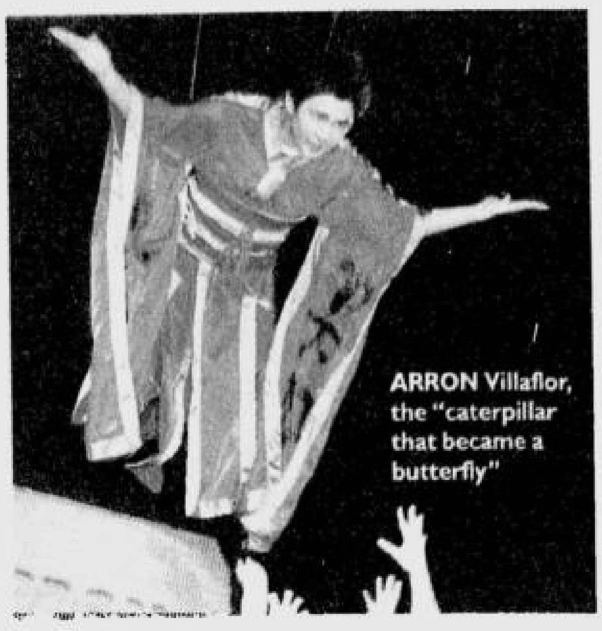
little BLACK BOOK

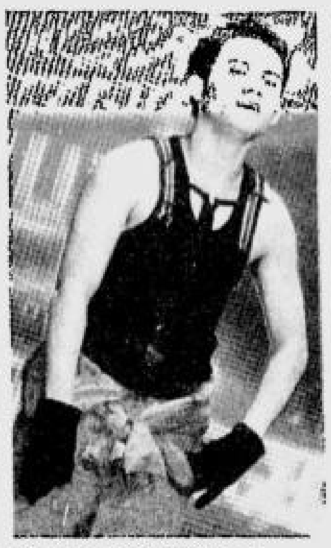
MTRCB Rating: PG13

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Stacy Holt (Brittany Murphy), an associate producer for daytime talk show hostess Kippie Kann (Kathy Bates), is frustrated when her boyfriend Derek (Ron Livingston) refuses to discuss his past relationships. With the encouragement of her co-worker Barb (Holly Hunter), she delves into his Palm to learn about his ex-girlfriends. Using the show as a ruse, Stacy interviews and befriends them, only to discover that the past, in a few instances, is rather present.

TODAY
SM MANILA


ARRON Villaflor, the "caterpillar that became a butterfly"


CHARLES Christianson, "like a fish in the water"

PAW Diaz, the one who "sparkles"

Red, white, and blue . . .

From page 1

seen you dance, we've seen you change from a 14-year-old child to a 14-year-old lady. Never give up," said juror Gloria Diaz after Erich's song-and-dance performance of Christina Aguilera's "I am Beautiful" with the Whiplash and the Halili Ballet Dancers.

Director Laurenti Dyogi, another juror, revealed that Erich almost did not make it to the contest proper.

"When we were in Davao, we almost did not include you in the roster of talents that we would bring to Manila," he said in Filipino. "But you were destined to be here ... you were destined to be a star. I know you will go far. You are a very beautiful girl, just as you said in your song."

Boy Abunda, the third juror, agreed. "If we didn't bring you here, [it] would have been one of [our] biggest oversights," he told Erich.

The pretty high school sophomore won P4 million worth of cash and contracts with ABS-CBN, and also bagged the "Kutis Artista" award, making her the next endorser of the sponsoring product, Maxi Peel.

All four other questors each received P2 million worth of cash and contracts.

Last showdown

The Fab Five had one last showdown, delighting the jurors and the screaming fans yet again.

Charles danced to an MC Hammer tune with the Streetboys. Abunda was generous with his praise: "When you dance, you are like a fish in the water. You are very comfortable," he said in Filipino.

Dyogi, noting that Charles was gasping for air after the number, advised the boy to limit his intake of food. In any case, Dyogi said, "We are very proud of you."

Paw, in a glittering and tight-fitting blue costume, dazzled the jurors with a sexy dance *a la* Destiny's Child.

Dyogi told her that ABS-CBN would welcome her into its stable of talents any time, win or lose. "*Kumikinang ang iyong kasuotan. Umaasa rin ako na kikinang ka sa show business* (Your outfit sparkles. I foresee that you will also sparkle in show business)," Dyogi said.

Paw was eliminated earlier in the contest, but was voted back in via a "wild-card" episode.

DM, who was celebrating his birthday that night, danced to several songs by Masculados—clad in a black coat and tie at first, and finishing in just a white *sando*, a bow tie, and sequined red shorts.

The jurors commended Arron, said to be a dead ringer for MTB's ("Masayang Tanghali, Bayan") Ya Chang, for his "major" transformation.

"You are like caterpillar that became a butterfly," Gloria Diaz said after Arron's dance-cum-martial arts performance.

And Dyogi just had to say it: "You are better-looking than [Ya Chang]."

Arron emerged runner-up to Erich, and was also named Nissin's Yakisoba Texter's Choice.

GUEST stars Gabriel and Gary Valenciano, and Maricel Soriano

MORE GUESTS. Joross Gamboa, Roxanne Guinoo, Angelica Panganiban, Carlo Aquino, Sandara Park and last year's Grand Questor, Hero Angeles

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) ELEKTRA PG13
1 (DOLBY) SHALL WE DANCE GP
2 (DOLBY) RACING STRIPES
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 R13
4 (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT R13

SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
isetann tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 LIBERATED

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS)

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 (SDDS) ELEKTRA
3 (DTS) MEET THE FOCKERS
4 GOLD (DTS) ELEKTRA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
6 GOLD (SDDS) SHALL WE DANCE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
8 (AVAL) KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 (AVAL) RACING STRIPES
10 (AVAL) BLADE TRINITY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 ELEKTRA
3 MAD HOUSE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ELEKTRA
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) OCEANS 12
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 (DOLBY) SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
4 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
1 (Dolby) ELEKTRA
2 (SDDS) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DTS) SHALL WE DANCF
4 (Dolby) RACING STRIPES
5 (Dolby) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RETURN OF THE DEMONS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ELEKTRA
5 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
2 ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
6 SHALL WE DANCE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SMOKIN' HOT: The MXtronica promo team

Virtual meets real in MXtronica

MARLBORO launches MXtronica, "a new genre of music," in Manila via a street party on Saturday at the Philippine Trade and Training Center on Roxas Boulevard.

Organizers describe MXtronica as a "unique fusion of western and rock music remixed with electronic techno sound." The party, according to the Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., makers of Marlboro, "promises to be an experience for the senses, where the virtual meets the real."

This year, a total of 10 countries is set to hear MXtronica, making it "the ultimate party ride," said Chris Nelson, PMPMI managing director.

Nelson said "loyal adult smokers of Marlboro" will receive invitations by mail.

'My Funniest Valentine'

SHOW TIME

TIRED of traditional Valentine mush?

"My Funniest Valentine" is the wacky alternative this year. K and the Boxers, Dingdong Dantes and Rufa Mae Quinto star in the concert set Feb. 15, 9 p.m. at Soundstage in Cainta.

The unusual cast is set to entertain its audience with risque antics, on top of songs, dances, and spiels on falling in and out of love.

"I'm sure everyone will have fun," says Dingdong. "I had fun myself working with K and the Boxers and, of course, Ms Rufa Mae Quinto."

(For inquiries, call 0917-5349373 or 0917-8177926.)

DINGDONG Dantes

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call.
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10
R-13

2 SHALL WE DANCE
10:45, 1:05, 3:35
6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 ELEKTRA
10:40, 1:05, 3:35
6:15, 8:45, 11:00
PG-13

4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

RACING STRIPES	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT R13 11:45,2:20,4:55,7:30,10:05	MEET THE FOCKERS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	ELEKTRA PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50-	SHALL WE DANCE? GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Return of the Demons	1 School of Seduction	1 Ocean's 12
4 Elektra	2 Ang galing galing mo Babes	2 Happy Together
5 School of Seduction	3 Assault Precint 13	Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase
	4 Blade Trinity	
	5 Elektra	
	6 Shall We Dance	

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
SHALL WE DANCE
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
GP

CINEMA 2
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 4, 2005	VIVA HOT BABES	9:00PM
FEBRUARY 5 2005	LAUGH AT THE MUSEUM	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① SHALL WE DANCE?
FS 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:00PM (GP)

② RACING STRIPES
(SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)

③ ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
FS 12:10PM, 2:40PM, 5:10PM, 7:40PM, LMF 10:10PM (R-13)

④ A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
FS 10:40AM, 1:30PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, LMF 10:00PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE ELEKTRA
FS 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)
MOVIES, PRICES & SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang. Call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc. 171 for inquiries and reservations.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1, 2, 3 and 4
Premier Rewards - for the Premier Theatre

Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150

Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center
LEISURE GUIDE
For All Inquiries: Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ADMISSION: P99 (Free Seating) P120 (Reserved Seats)
THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST CINEMA WITH THE WIDEST SCREEN / MAGNIFICENT LOBBY SKYLIGHT ACCENTED BY A 360-DEGREE STYLIZED MODERN MURAL
Gateway CinePlEx*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
NOW SHOWING
ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
SHALL WE DANCE
RACING STRIPES
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
WITHOUT A PADDLE
ELEKTRA
MEET THE FOCKERS

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 DOLBY ELEKTRA
2 SDDS ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 dts SHALL WE DANCE
4 DOLBY RACING STRIPES
5 DOLBY A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

GATEWAY MALL
LIVE BAND! COOL JAZZ, COOL CLASSICS
Every Friday & Saturday 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Feb. 4	Game 3	PBA FINALS GINEBRA vs. Talk N' Text
Feb. 6	Game 4	
Feb. 9	Game 5 If necessary	

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 4 PM to 10 PM
Sunday & Holiday 2 PM to 10 PM

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA 632-9115/16
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT • THX
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 RACING STRIPES
4 WITHOUT A PADDLE
5 ELEKTRA
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 BATH HOUSE
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 WHITE NOISE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 ELEKTRA
4 RESERVE
5 RACING STRIPES
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 RACING STRIPES
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
7 ELEKTRA
8 SHALL WE DANCE

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31
1 ELEKTRA
2 RACING STRIPES
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 MADHOUSE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸
Exclusive SCREENING
From the makers of DUDA/DOUBT, Grupong Sinehan Inc., comes another Crisaldo Pablo's digital movie about love and relationship...

REGULAR SCREENING SCHEDULES:

February 2 - 8	GALLERIA
February 9-15	METRO EAST
February 16-22	NOVALICHES
Feb. 23 - Mar. 1	ANGELES
March 02 - 08	IMUS
March 09 - 15	LIPA
March 16 - 22	PIONEER

Starring: Jet Alcantara, Andoy Ranay, Rey Pumaloy, John Lapus and introducing Ray An Dulay
MTRCB Rating: R-18

PIONEER 687-5378
1 RACING STRIPES
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575
1 UNO
11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
2 RESIDENT EVIL
11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
3 BLADE TRINITY
11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
4 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661
1 ELEKTRA
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 RACING STRIPES

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing S... ices Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Oscar bet scoops 14 of Spain's top film awards

JAVIER BARDEM, Best Actor, for the role of a quadriplegic fighting for his right to die

MADRID—"The Sea Inside," the true story of a quadriplegic's battle for the right to die, scooped 14 of Spain's top film awards early on Monday, a month ahead of the Oscars where it is nominated for Best Foreign Language Film.

Alejandro Amenabar's film about Ramon Sampedro, whose 30-year struggle to die after a diving accident paralyzed him from the neck down, picked up the awards for Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor and a host of others.

Javier Bardem, who endured five-hour make-up sessions to gain wrinkles and lose most of his hair for the role, won the Goya award for Best Actor at a ceremony hosted by Spain's Academy of Cinematic Arts and Sciences.

Lola Duenas, whose character eventually helps Sampedro poison himself and record his last moments on video, won Best Actress.

The woman her character was based on confessed earlier this year to placing a glass of cyanide with a straw by Sampedro's bedside in 1998. The film has reignited a controversy in mainly Catholic Spain over euthanasia.

BEST Director Alejandro Amenabar, with actress Penelope Cruz

Previously unknown Mabel Rivera won the Best Supporting Actress award for her portrayal of Sampedro's devoted sister-in-law, heartbroken by his decision to end his life.

'The Others'

The movie, set in the harsh, wet countryside of northwest Spain, also picked up Best Supporting Actor, Best Newcomer Actor and Actress, Best Script, Best Photography, Best Make-up, and Best Music—written by the Amenabar himself.

The 32-year-old director became well known outside Spain with his twist-ridden thriller "The Others," which starred Nicole Kidman.

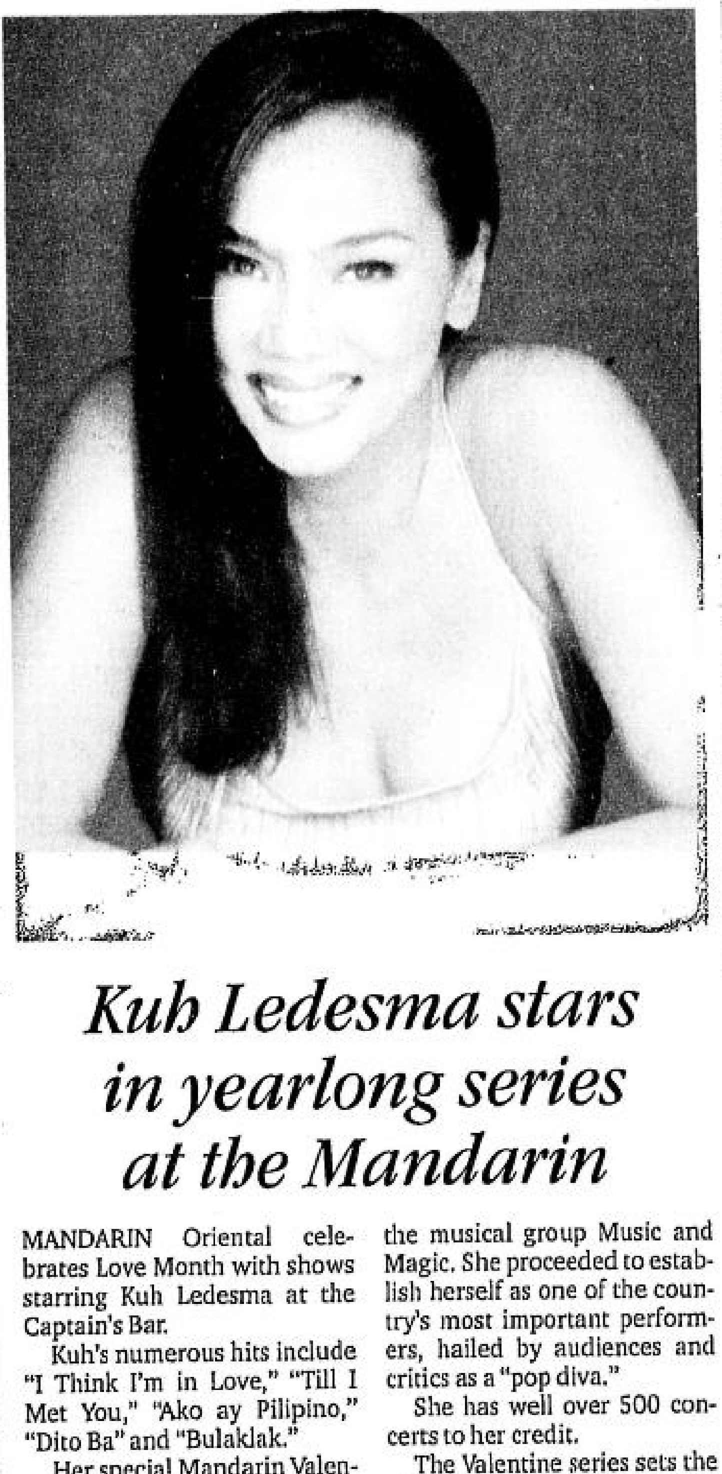
"The Sea Inside," called "Mar Adentro" (out to sea) in Spanish, had already picked up Best Director and Actor awards in the European Film Awards, Best Actor and the Jury Grand Prix in the Venice Film Festival and a Golden Globe.

Spanish director Pedro Almodovar who, until recently, has cast a shadow over his compatriot directors, left the awards empty-handed, after his "Mala Educacion" lost out to "Mar Adentro" for Best Film and Director.

"Head-On," a film about a suicidal young Turkish-German woman who marries a much older, also suicidal, man with Turkish roots to escape her traditional family, won Best European Film.

Directed by Fatih Akin, "Head-On" had already scooped prizes at the European and Berlin Film Festivals.

Reuters



Kuh Ledesma stars in yearlong series at the Mandarin

MANDARIN Oriental celebrates Love Month with shows starring Kuh Ledesma at the Captain's Bar.

Kuh's numerous hits include "I Think I'm in Love," "Till I Met You," "Ako ay Pilipino," "Dito Ba" and "Bulaklak."

Her special Mandarin Valentine series, set Feb. 11 to 14, is entitled "The Love Songs of Streisand, Legrand and Groban." Special guest is Christian Bautista.

Kuh's illustrious career spans more than 25 years. She started out as lead vocalist for the musical group Music and Magic. She proceeded to establish herself as one of the country's most important performers, hailed by audiences and critics as a "pop diva."

She has well over 500 concerts to her credit.

The Valentine series sets the stage for subsequent shows at the Captain's Bar. Starting Feb. 18 and 19, and every Friday and Saturday hence until the year's end, "Kuh Ledesma Presents" will showcase the top-rated performer alongside other new artists.

Keanu Reeves earns his own bronze star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES— "Matrix" star Keanu Reeves, who rose to fame via "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," has Monday won a most excellent honor: his own star on Hollywood's prestigious Walk of Fame.

The 40-year-old screen heartthrob thanked his mother after the unveiling of his bronze-edged star. It was the 2,277th to be embedded in the pavement where legends, from Errol Flynn to Tom Hanks, are also immortalized.

Mom's blessing

"When I was 15 years old and a kid in Canada, I was doing a play called 'Romeo and Juliet'," Reeves said, turning toward his mother who attended the ceremony. "I asked my mom if it was OK to be an actor. She said: 'Whatever you want.' So thanks mom." Reeves, who was born in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, in September 1964, and was raised in New York City and Toronto, was a star high school hockey goaltender before dropping out of school to pursue an acting career.

"Hollywood was calling," Reeves told the crowd. "So I got in my car, a 1969 British racing green Volvo—holes in the floor, bricks holding up the seats. I was a young man full of hopes and dreams."

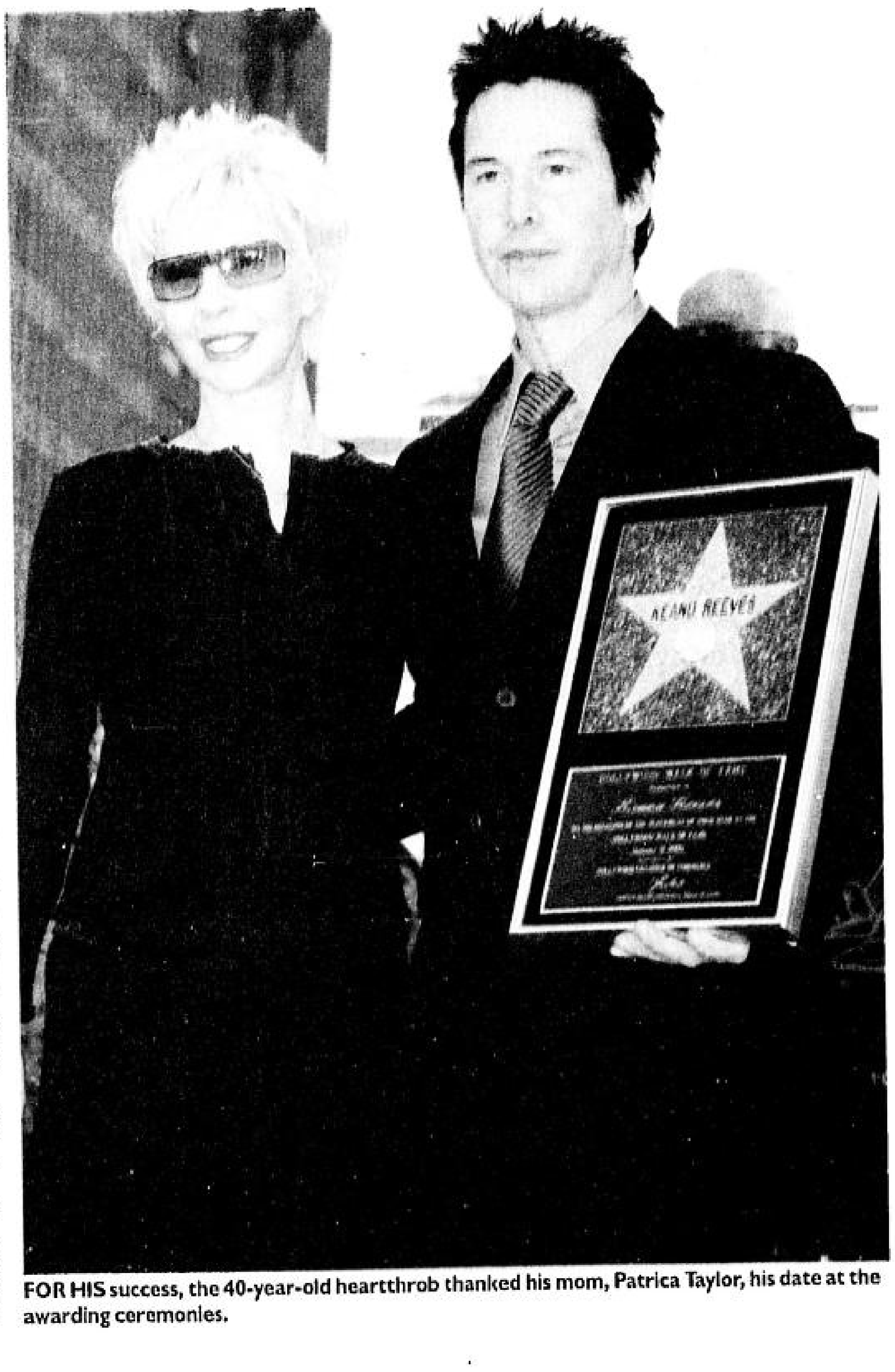
He began his career on the Toronto stage before winning his early television roles.

His big break came in 1986, when he landed a supporting role in the film "Youngblood." Later the same year he won critical acclaim for his performance in the film "River's Edge," before winning his first starring role in 1989 as dim-witted teenage nerd Ted Logan, in the smash hit "Excellent Adventure." He earned a reputation as a big-budget movie action star with his role as policeman Jack Traven opposite Sandra Bullock in 1994's "Speed," before becoming a mega-star after starring in 1999's "The Matrix" and its two sequels.

His other film credits include the 2003 Jack Nicholson-Diane Keaton comedy "Something's Gotta Give," and 1997's "Devil's Advocate" opposite Al Pacino.

His next film, "Constantine," is scheduled for release in North America on Feb. 18, Reeves plays the title role in the adaptation of the DC-Vertigo comic book of the same name.

AFP



FOR HIS success, the 40-year-old heartthrob thanked his mom, Patrica Taylor, his date at the awarding ceremonies.